

They Remind Me of Home

Raven Freebird

I bought these
long Dentalium earrings
back in October 2019
It is now April 2020
The cost?
80 bucks & a beaded heart
I still haven't gotten those earrings

The people I complain to, ask me
"Why don't you get your money back?"
"Why are you waiting so long?"

If they could picture a sliver
of my world
they would see
the earrings that remind me
of my mommy

a pair of
beautiful, one-of-a-kind,
long Dentalium earrings

I remember them on mom
before being ripped from her
She was breathtaking

These earrings remind me of mom
the one place I called home

Once at a powwow
fresh brown skin
& thirteen years young

I saw a pair of
long
Dentalium
earrings
They gave me a longing
of being

"How much?"
I even asked if she would give me an indian discount
like the way mom would have

"\$200"
& laughed at me
for asking about the indian discount
"It's 2013 girl"

ndns really know how to give bad news
maybe it's because
they are usually on the receiving end

I only had \$5
an urban Indian taken,
Taken
from my community
long before I could choose to run

I never did learn how to be kin with
Dentalium

Now I know
The system
captures broke kids
and shows them
the only way
to achieve their dreams
is thru material things

& so, I was taught
to Reach for the dream

a home projected to look
something like
a long
pair of
Dentalium earrings

So now that I can afford them, I don't want to let them go
\$90 and a trade

& when I get the
long Dentalium
earrings
I can say
"Mom, I'm finally home"