

WHAT ROOTS SHALL BLOOM

On the Occasion of The State of the County Address
by Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, January 30th, 2025

The Banyan at Bayside
stands sentry
over the city it watches.

Nourished by a century
of sea breeze and salt brine,
Miami sidewalks soften

beneath its crown.
Leaf knit canopy so grand,
we have forgotten

it began as a seed
that fell from the beak
of a migrant bird

fleeing its origins
in search of sunshine,
a warmer abode,

the dream of a home
gathered from fronds
and sticks, from detritus

hope alone,
fueling its wings
spurring it on.

This is how
our county grows—
one kernel at a time.

The seedling begets the sprout
the sprout begets the sapling
the sapling digs in

and strives for light, for height,
for the strength required
to anchor itself,

to grow into a trunk
that will extend its branches
toward us all,

verdant arms laden
with blossoms, with berries,
with mangos, with flowers—

for our tables, our altars,
the offerings we cast
into our river, our ocean,

for the dirt-warmed hands
of the gardener who knows
to prune only

what can be transplanted,
what can be regrown
from the cutting,

a scion strong enough
to root itself within
a new spot, regrow

within this soil
studded with coral
and limestone,

wanting only
to offer itself, to bloom
again, once more

BY: Caridad Moro-Gronlier
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