

Transcript: Octavia Butler, *Earthseed*

Used in Laurie Kang's Reader-in-Residence response to Oscar Santillán's *Solaris*

Consider: Whether you're a human being, an insect, a microbe, or a stone, this verse is true.

All that you touch
You Change.

All that you Change
Changes you.

The only lasting truth
Is Change.

God
Is Change.

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Here we are—  
Energy,  
Mass,  
Life,  
Shaping Life,  
Mind,  
Shaping Mind,  
God,  
Shaping God.  
Consider—  
We are born  
Not with purpose,  
But with potential.

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Darkness
Gives shape to the light
As light
Shapes the darkness.
Death
Gives shape to life
As life
Shapes death.
The universe
And God

Share this wholeness,
Each
Defining the other.
God
Gives shape to the universe
As the universe
Shapes God.

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We have lived before  
We will live again  
We will be silk,  
Stone,  
Mind,  
Star,  
We will be scattered,  
Gathered,  
Molded,  
Probed.  
We will live,  
And we will serve life.  
We will shape God,  
And God will shape us  
Again,  
Always again  
Forevermore.

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Self is.

Self is body and bodily perception. Self is thought, memory, belief. Self creates. Self destroys. Self learns, discovers, becomes. Self shapes. Self adapts. Self invents its own reasons for being. To shape God, shape Self.

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You are Earthseed—  
One of many  
One unique,  
One small seed,  
One great promise.  
Tenacious of life,  
Shaper of God,  
Water,

Fire,  
Sculptor,  
Clay,  
You are Earthseed!  
And your Destiny,  
The Destiny of Earthseed,  
Is to take root  
Among the stars.

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Are you Earthseed?
Do you believe?
Belief will not save you.
Only actions
Guided and shaped
By belief and knowledge
Will save you.
Belief
Initiates and guides action—
Or it does nothing.

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We give our dead  
To the orchards  
And the groves.  
We give our dead  
To life