

A few words upfront:

for this project i am referencing fragments from Octavia Butler's 'Wild Seed'.

the numbers mentioned below in the transcript indicate to what page i am referring to in the book. The physical copy that i have used is the one that was published in 2014 and then again in 2020 by HEADLINE PUBLISHING GROUP.

this project is dedicated to – and in the spirit of – the "octavia's parables" podcast (readingoctavia.com)

-----transcript start: -----

hello and welcome

my name is darius, or wind
i am a nonbinary transfemme
i use no pronouns
and if you hear this
you are probably one of the participants of the esj certificate program

this is my final project
which is a series of questions i want to ask you
and these questions come from "wild seed"
some text passages that i looked at from this book by octavia butler

and before we start i invite you to find a comfortable position
this recording is probably going to take around 20 minutes
so make sure you check in with yourself
is there anything you need before we start
and i also invite you to pause the recording at any moment, if you feel like it

this song that you are hearing is part of a mix that i found today
on nts radio
the mix is called "dont'ttrip"

question 1

(240)do you remember your ancestors, even in the smallest structures of your flesh?

question 2

(58)can you look into your body and alter what you see there?

like if you discover some kind of wrongness, for example an imbalance between your ears.. would you notice even this tiniest

change?

and would you observe this tiniest change, with interest,
while remembering former memories of perfection in this exact place
between your ears?

and are you aware that this process of remembering and correcting is
the same gesture?

which diseases, disorders and injuries in your body have you studied
in the past,
making it easy for you now to correct them should they reoccur?

can you also generate healing balms for others, in your body?
(204) and if you had to quickly generate a healing balm that you
dont know yet, how far would you push your own strength in this
process?

(123)if you eat a new type of food, do you also control your
digestion by focussing so much on your inner awareness that you
appear to be asleep? controlling your digestion to make your body
get used to this new substance, rather than vomit it out?
study the healing until you know what is needed and why?

do you also know all the diseases and poisons of your people?
if yes, do you study those who are now to all of us?

question 3

(85) when you eat a piece of fish, do you also study its physical
structure, giving you all the information you need, to allow you to
take on its shape and live as the fish itself did?

question 4

(132) if someone wants to use your body for procreation do you also
just alter your reproductive organs quickly, denying them physical
access?

question 5

(57) can you change your bodies appearance, like making it age, in
order to blend in in moments of danger?

question x and y

(158) if you currently have none of these abilities, is it possible
that you had them once?

...and if you cannot remember, what about your ancestors?

is it possible that you lost those abilities with your imagination,
when you were forced into whiteness?

question z

(225) if you switched to living in a white body and you have been
white for so long that you would not recognize a realitve in front
of you, would you still hear them call your name and say "does that

white skin cover your eyes too?"?
where are the people around you now, who would say this?

question ?

(264)if you are close to a burnout, where are your friends that say
"go to the sea!" "the sea clenses you." "go and be a fish for a
while." "it will be good for you".

so these were the questions that came up for me when i was going
through this book
i hope there was something in there that was intriguing,
stimulating, moving
either way, thank you for listening
i had originally intended to go through all of the octavia butler
books
and harvest the sections that i think relate to embodiment
given this time frame now and realizing the workload,
i am just going to leave it here.
maybe i will do more...
and i also wanted to share that i am happy this turned
into some kind of audio piece
instead of just a sort of accumulation of raw text fragments.
i hope you are well
and maybe see you soon?
thank you so much also to the whole team of the esj certificate
program
i am so grateful
and i am so happy to share my voice here now,
because i dont think i did that throughout the whole training
#big hugs to all the other transfemmes listening. hehe

good bye!

oh and i forgot to mention, this piece for now is called
"from octavia through margarita to the imaginary sister of arca and
lyra
- preliminary sketch"