

**Jill Scott**

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**terra materna**

earth mother, Mother Earth,  
*terra materna, terra firma,*  
earth, dirt, mud  
mummy muck, mummy mud.

you heavy soil,  
root me with gravity,  
wind this vortex down.  
spiral me to my nadir,  
surrender me  
clayed slime to the deep.

chthonian magic  
binds my sphered belly,  
bulges me wide.  
geocynclinal, this baby  
earths its way to breath.

unafraid to celebrate,  
it squeezes itself  
a patient miracle,  
and beautifies  
a tiny path to grace.

a birth and a burst,  
then one, sententious stare,

*Jill Scott*

baby gulps a first gasp  
and pinks its own joy.

what force?  
what potency?  
what manifest will?

lend me your courage,  
infant bundle,  
bathe me in your pluck.

shadow me, spirit me,  
embrace me in your might.  
flower me open,  
nurse me  
from maid  
to mother.  
Earth.