

A Testimony Denouncing Religion

Kena Arnold-Malufau

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A Testimony Denouncing Religion

Kena Arnold-Malufau

My mom is Japanese, and was adopted by a white family. My birth dad is Mexican.

My adoptive dad is Samoan.

At 18 years old my mom was kicked out of a high school for carrying me.

At 18 years old my birth dad dropped out of high school, he was angry with me.

At 18 years old I am the first in my family to go to college.

Now, I am 19 years old and am about to successfully complete a semester of college debt free.

The first time my father abandoned me I was a newborn and he was a teenager in denial.

He came back when I was two years old.

The last time my father abandoned me I was 13 years old and he was just as angry as he was when he dropped out of high school. I told him I was gay. He is Christian.

I used to wonder if he would have still loved me if he wasn't Christian.

I do not know who I am because I do not know where I come from
My testimony denounces the reason I do not know where I come from...

Religion burnt that bridge.

a prison pretending to be a home.

Arms open wide, you think they're welcoming but they suffocate you in obedience to outdated rules that keep you in cages.

I would still talk to my family if religion didn't divide us and our values, and my family is a key to open the door to know where I come from.

My life is made up of fragments of 'could have beens':

- I could have spoken Spanish
- I could be in Japan
- I could have not been gay

I *would* be speaking Spanish if I was not gay

If she and I were friends instead of lovers, I would still speak to my

birth father

Who kicked me out at 13

I now know that he was also a prison pretending to be a home.

Trained to never think critically only critique and judge

I denounce a bible that condones homophobia

I denounce a people so wrapped up in their fear that they hide behind
a god

Who may or may not have written a book that needs an up-to-date
translation.

I denounce a religion that promotes separation.

My family held the torches and pitchforks but pastors taught them
how to wield such weapons

I denounce a religion that pretends to be rooted in love,

I denounce a religion that calls poison salvation and spoon feeds it to
people to teach them how to hate.