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You laughed and laughed and laughed

My laughter is the fire  
of the eye of the sky, the fire  
of the earth, the fire of the air  
the fire of the seas and the  
rivers fishes animals trees  
and it thawed your inside,  
thawed your voice, thawed your  
ears, thawed your eyes and  
thawed your tongue.

So a meek wonder held  
your shadow and you whispered  
'Why so?'  
And I answered:  
'Because my fathers and I  
are owned by the living  
warmth of the earth  
through our naked feet.'

/Gabriel Okara, The Fisherman's  
Invocation, London: Heinemann  
Educational Books, 1979, 25/