

“I am accused of tending to the past”

by Lucille Clifton

1 I am accused of tending to the past
2 as if i made it,
3 as if i sculpted it
4 with my own hands. i did not.
5 the past was waiting for me
6 when i came,
7 a monstrous unnamed baby,
8 *and I with my mother's itch*
9 took it to breast
10 and named it
11 History.
12 she is more human now,
13 learning language everyday,
14 remembering faces, names and dates.
15 when she is strong enough to travel
16 on her own, beware, she will.