Her son had learned the world for hunger
alone with her grief. Knowing
why mother built the pains from her first labor
(2) letters and went separate the difference
born into earning instead of family

empty of belonging

A baby boy

as the bridge then sorrow

only to mourn a year later

announcing for hours

My name knows my mother looked

I letter short of home

2 letters away from home

5 letters denote of birth Blood, Blood, Please, Khmer, Story

3 decades of children made in 3 schools

2,000 years of history present in 1 body

My name is

Anida Youn Ali

What's in a Name?
A small child sinks deeper into her seat
My name survived extraction because she knew what it was called.

I take issue with your interpretation, manifold of my name
Is it the original call and response that all people claim
clear before the nations of hip hop
before cities become governments
before countries bound themselves into borders

I respond when you desire it
when you cry it
when you whisper it
when you say my name
When you say my name

and escaped from a land kissed by American bombs
cars like arms into infinite ancient mountains
my name echoes the same jaded whisper to carry memories
my name unexpectedly inherits this child's honor
she elected a second name and my name was born
before he was able to call her mother or speak her name.
Please pause here.

Don't think you down any further
Don't dwell on my childhood wounds
Don't read me as a woman of a opinion of it in public

Placed don't tell me I can't do that
So when I get angry or cannot face your mispronunciation
Every mispronunciation leaves a scar on my consciousness
I wonder if I will ever recover from the experience
I wonder if I will ever recover from my inferiority

Every mispronunciation is like aalmart shouting bullies
With every mispronunciation, white America nares
With every mispronunciation, white America nares

How do youth pronounce your name?
How do you pronounce your name?
How does your name sound?

Like Karen's country, forgotten
with every mispronunciation white American nares
with every mispronunciation white American nares

into a classroom of white kids
into their silence
into their silence
into their silence
Choked—A Muslim's declaration of faith

Dreams

Fire
Bread
Water
Daughters of the earth
Women of resistance
Sisters of straw
Daughters of life
Who are all daughters of Hawaii
Who is the daughter of a woman whose name I do not know
Who is the daughter of a woman whose name is Samoan
Who is the daughter of a woman whose name is Hawaiian
Daughter of Samoan
Whose name is Andria
She is my name. The echo of Homer I long to remember.
She is my brooding, my mother, who have loved before me.
She is my only refuge when I am stripped naked
To honor her legacy
To live up to her
To come to her defense
To come when she calls me
To have her said correctly
To say her correctly
The right to my name
Allow me to own this one thing