

## **JAMES “JIMMY” SOTO | I AM MOLÉ**

Who Am I?

I am molé.

The sweet and spicy, reddish-maroon colored Nahuatl sauce whose Aztec ancestors believed it came as a gift from their main deity, Quetzlcoatl. I am the chiles, the root vegetables, the pumpkin seeds, the sesame seeds, and the Mexican chocolate that give molé its unique, earthy flavor. I am the way that it is slowly cooked and blended for perfection.

Where do I come from?

I come from over 500 years of oppression caused by the conquistador legacy. The mixing of Spanish and pre-Colombian, Meso-American, indigenous blood. I come from two worlds, but never really belonging to either. I speak the oppressor's language. I have adopted his dominant cultural norms.

Where do I want to go?

I want to go where the construct of skin color doesn't divide but unifies. Where ideological disparities are blended, like molé, into human equities.

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