

Flor del Barrio

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Querida Flor del Barrio, from where do you come?
De sangre indígena, corazón sagrado,
Sanctified spirit, flourishing in a garden of pain.
The poverty and desperation that oppresses our children,
Cannot contain the dignity the Creator has placed in their hearts.

Tender Flor del Barrio, show me how to care.
Your tender hands like the petals of a rose,
Reach out with each new day towards the sun,
Nurturing the frail, celebrating love, and affirming life.
In infinite beauty, you breathe the pain of others,
Your resolve to serve heartened by their tears.

Wounded Flor del Barrio, how graceful should we bleed?
You've known the pain of cruelty, addiction, and neglect,
You wear human frailty like a thorny crown upon your head.
Where is that place of stillness, where the Creator soothes our soul?
To conceal or reveal our scars to others, what makes us understood?

Resilient Flor del Barrio, how do warriors survive?
Do you wither in the longing of your own solace?
Knowing the moon rises that even the sun may rest.
Have you found yourself a sanctuary, have you made yourself a home?
Bringing hope, teaching forbearance to the broken and forlorn,
Where do you find your peace?

Radiant Flor del Barrio, refusing to be muted.
Nuestro barrio, suffering and thriving in the shadow of opulence and human indifference.
A divine light in a poisoned land, your love and conviction illuminate the darkness.
There are others like you—embrace, respect, and encourage them.
There are those that came before—honor, learn from, and account for them.
There are those that will follow—nurture, nourish, and prune them.

Mystic Flor del Barrio, of what do you dream?
The transformation of this garden of pain is not beyond our grasp.
To live as the Creator intended,
Nuestro barrio, a paradise filled with the laughter of emancipation.
A place where our elders sunset in peace and with dignity.
Where our children blossom with the taste of love, justice, and discovery as their daily bread.
Our barrio, a place where we are one with the earth, with one another, and with the Creator.