Poetry Series

Jose F Rosado - poems -

Publication Date: 2009

Publisher:

Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Jose F Rosado(November 27,1948)

A Brushstroke On The Lake Made By Dying Leaves In Autumn

A brushstroke on the lake Made by dying leaves In autumn; Sinking to its depths, Taking refuge from the light.

Visions cast upon the waters, Colors seeking for the darkness, For the grays that winter offers – Germinating in its womb Budding greens that are to come.

(January 2005)

As A Child

As a child Lost in the woods Of my own accord I wandered On well-trodden paths. Under arching boughs – Over rocks half-peering From the earth below.

Up steep banks I scampered. Towering oaks offered their trunks to me. Fingers finding fissures In their rough bark, Feet finding footholds On steadfast roots Reaching far into the earth.

As a man Lost in the woods That I know so well I stumble Through bushes and brambles And briars That grab and pull And pierce and cut.

Breathing hard I stop To suck on bleeding fingers, Staggered at how the woods have changed, And wonder where And when And how I got lost along the way.

(Fall 2008)

El Agua, Las Piedras Y El Rio

Como se desliza el agua Entre las orillas del rio Rompiendoze contra las piedras Sin queja, llanto, o gemido.

Ella le canta a las piedras Para tenerlas dormidas Y mientras duermen y callan Les acaricia la cara Con manos tiernas que engañan.

Y las piedras no lo sospechan, Se entregan agradecidas. Mientras el agua las destroza – Poco a poco las desgasta – Y se las alimenta al rio.

(Abril 2009)

El Caudal De Una Vida

Floto

En las aguas negras de la noche Sobre sueños y memorias, Ambiciones y temores, Sobre orgullos y penas.

Me encuentro Poseído por un caudal inaguantable Que supera aquellas fuerzas Que tiran hacia las orillas Donde reside el descanso.

Me lleva La corriente a los extremos, Donde la turbulencia esconde Los excesos de mis triunfos, Las mentiras de mis derrotas.

Tropiezo Contra las piedras inmóviles, Colocadas por el destino Solo para mostrarme El dolor de la existencia.

Me desprendo En un salto libre, Que me lanza hacia el espacio Por un momento suspendido Entre la luz y la espuma...

Sonrío...

Caigo, Y me recibe una pozeta Con brazos líquidos Que me envuelven y me abrazan, Que me tienen, y me quieren proteger.

Desciendo

En las aguas negras de la noche Entre sueños y memorias, Ambiciones y temores, Entre orgullos y penas

Recuerdo El salto, Y la luz y la espuma... Y aquella sonrisa Que yo in día poseí.

Jose F Rosado – 27 de Noviembre,2010

El Círculo Del Tiempo

Cayó una gota de tiempo En el jarro de mi vida, Desplazando así otra gota En otro tiempo vivida

Empujada sobre el borde, Deslizándose por el jarro, Llegó la gota al final Lanzándose hacia el espacio

Y yo miraba esa gota Pensando que la perdía, Como un sueño de la noche Que se borra con el día.

iY que asombro! iQue sorpresa! Cuando vi que la gota caia En ese jarro repleto De donde mismo venia.

Cayó una gota de tiempo En el jarro de mi vida...

Enero 2013

Esta Noche Voy De Fiesta

Esta noche voy de fiesta Como todo un Cordobés, Con traje negro de pana Y botas nuevas en los pies.

Voy en rumbo a aquellas cuevas – Tu te acuerdas donde es. Donde bailan los gitanos Y primero te besé.

No pienses que busco recuerdos, Pues ya casi te olvidé. Voy buscando amores nuevos, Pues hay mucho 'onde escogé. Ya casi no pienso en la noche Cuando primero te vi, Bailando sobre el tablero Y te acercaste hacia mi.

Como un fantasma viniste Mirándome 'entro 'e los ojos Por toda una eternidad, Y cuando ya no podía Mirarte un momento mas... Te sonreíste modesta y preguntaste inocente Si yo sabia como palmear.

El guitarrista rastreaba... El cantaó ya gemía... Y yo casi que moría De vergüenza y alegría Al ver tu cuerpo girar.

En la oscuridad de las cuevas Embriagados por el vino, guitarras y castañuelas, Tu girabas, y girabas. Me mirabas entre las vueltas. Me quemabas con tus ojos. Y yo consumido en candela Salí al tablero a bailar.

Cuerpo a cuerpo, Cara a cara, Ojos con ojos, bailamos. Tu cuerpo se deslizaba Entre mi pecho y mis brazos. Y enloquecido aspiraba El olor de piedras y rio Que de tus poros brotaba Y mezclaba con el mío... Y despertaba mis ansias, mis anhelos, mis deseos De tenerte entre mis brazos Y unir tus labios a los míos.

La música calló de pronto. Oía solo un latido. Pecho a pecho nos miramos Con una de esas miradas Que cala hasta el corazón. Boca a boca nos besamos, Y los labios deslizamos.....

Coño!

Que es lo que estoy haciendo? Eso fue todo en pasado, Mas de mil años atrás. Ese beso ya no importa, Ni lo puedo recordar.

Esta noche voy de fiesta Como todo un Cordobés, Con traje negro de pana Y botas nuevas en los pies.

Voy en rumbo aquellas cuevas. Tu te acuerdas donde es. Donde bailan los gitanos Y donde me voy a encontrar, Bailando sobre el tablero, Una que te va remplazar. Con ojos ardiendo en candela, Con olor a piedra y rio, Otra que despierta el anhelo De unir sus labios a los míos...

Esta noche voy de fiesta A donde primero te vi. Voy a buscar una otra Que me mire 'entro 'e los ojos Por toda una eternidad, Que me pregunte inocente Si yo se como palmear. Le voy a posar en los labios Aquel beso que te di. Ese beso que no importa, Pues ya... ni me acuerdo de ti.

-Jose F Rosado Noviembre 2010

Forgiving

Stand at the edge of a cliff And watch the cloud approaching. Anticipate its embrace Loaded with moisture and dew. Ask for it to nourish you Where your mother may have failed. Dewdrops on blackberry bushes -Lick the thorns and accept... That for the evil of anger There's the virtue of forgiving.

(January 2009)

From Ithaca To Ithaca

Full of hubris, I once thought I could determine the way. Born to rule, to be the hero, I set out to war one day. Off to glory, I left Ithaca, Off to Troy, to make a name.

As I set upon the waters Life tried pointing out the way. But I knew, I knew much better. I, the master of my fate, Would take life and shape and mold it – Make it bend to my illusions, Make it serve all my delusions. I would triumph, I would conquer I would slay all who opposed me, I would shape my life my way.

Now the years have passed. They find me On a strange and distant shore. Heavy mist on the horizon, Endless sea spreads out before me, Mighty battlements behind me -And the clamor from great battles Now lie muffled in the grave.

Filled with dreams, I went to conquer. Vanquished cities, slayed their warriors, Took their treasure and their knowledge, Took their women, fathered children, Cast my seed upon the wind.

Now my victories ring hollow, Empty cities with no life. Crones have become of my lovers. All their promises of nurture Are now demands upon my soul. And the children... they've all left me, Forged their lives, set out their destinies – They now worship other gods.

Troy is gone, destroyed, defeated. I must stop rebuilding Troy. Gods conspire, grab and shake the earth below, Houses crumble, winds are blowing, Thunderclouds rise from the shore. Time will tear back down this city, Mighty battlements to dust. Blood-paved streets that flowed with bravery Echo empty... vain and hollow. I grow restless – I must go. I must set off home to Ithaca. The past must die and be reborn.

Yet no sadness overcomes me, There's new life that wants to live me -New adventure, mighty voyages. Life has plans and I must heed them -Must accept them as they call me. Life in whispers hands out wisdom -Hush and listen to the wind.

It will lead me, it will lift me, I will now rise up and meet it -Be it my Dread or my Self. That which I've feared and avoided – What will not relent in becoming Points out the way to my destiny. I will oblige and become.

I will continue the voyage -This journey back to myself. There's a broiling sea before me -Monsters, witches, riches, lovers, Lessons, perils, dangers, glory. And in the end there's my Ithaca Half remembered, half imagined, Mythic place from where I came.

Forged in the fires of Ithaca, To Ithaca I must in the end.

Childhood dreams of a strange city First expelled me, now they call me. But I live, I live the journey. I had to leave to return. Back to thoughts and dreams and choices I once left so far behind. Back to a life that kept living Without my playing my part.

I will sail out in the morning, Ride the winds where they will blow. To those monsters, to those witches, To those sirens on the rocks, Raging seas and snowy mountains, Boiling rivers, winding roads.

Time has come to face the stranger, He who stares back from the mirror. Welcome him home to my soul. I need him for the long voyage, I need to fuse and to bond. I need his wits and his courage To conquer the barriers to come. To turn this loneliness to silence, And cross from my life to my Myth.

Come my friends, true friends, to Ithaca The sun rises, we must go. The mist lifts and burns and vanishes, The tide lifts our ship in the harbor, It lifts our hearts to the challenge. We leave to fulfill our destiny. With or without you, I go. (March 2009)

From The Depths

Feel what fuses and what forms In the hours of the shadow. Timeless shapes and shapeless thoughts Up, from endless caverns rising. Spilling, spreading, Like a fog that clings to earth, Filling crevices and hollows. Wrapping roots and rising trunks Sucking, feeding on this fare. That well above the forest floor Mighty trees might rise above, Might spread branches to the light And show their leaves And take their shape Unaware, with not a clue Of seed and food and breath and thought That gave rise to such Magnificence.

(March 2009)

Gemido De Un Corazon Herido

Con chocolate en los labios Y una navaja en la mano Te retiras en pies desnudos Dejando huellas de sangre Y mi corazon en un nudo.

(Abril 2009)

Gently In The Night Come To Me

Gently in the night Come to me, Weaving among dreams and memories, Breaths through veils, Faint suggestions, Loves I lived But never were.

Wrap me kindly in your arms, Caress me, Say no words or whisper secrets Safely hidden in the daytime Deep in crevices and caverns That protect them from the light.

Listen quietly to murmurs Whispered From the darkened room I pass through. Footsteps, voices, pages turning... Are they echoes of my making, ... or budding truths that I deny?

Wrap your hand around the candle, Shield it. Let no wind blow out its flame... Nor its light shine out too brightly Nor its glow suggest the presence, Of the beasts that may lay hidden, Lurking hungry in the dark.

Let me breathe this moment, Briefly. Let me live in my defiance Of those things that may yet come.

Let me take them as they take me... Bit by bit, ... and chunk by chunk. (April 2010)

Gotea La Luz De Mañana

Gotea la luz de mañana Entre las hojas del roble Cayendo sobre la cara De un niño... Incierto y noble.

Buscando santuario en la sombra, Contra el tronco escondido. Aferrado a la penumbra, Con ansias... Aun no habiendo vivido.

Pero la luz no se detiene Busca alumbrar sus temores, Trae consigo las verdades De la vida... Llantos, risas, penas y amores.

Y el niño, abriendo sus ojos Dejas sus miedos atrás, Sale a la luz de mañana Cauteloso... Curioso, queriendo saber mas.

Contempla el borde 'e la sombra, La protección de las ramas, Toma su vida en sus manos Sale... Corre, se precipita hacia las llamas.

Y el roble, con la mirada lo sigue Hasta que se pierde a lo lejos. Tira tres hojas al viento, Sonríe... Piensa y suspira... Hay beneficio en ser viejo!

JFR Marzo 2011

I Never Thought

I I never I never thought I never thought that I would I never thought that I would have a daughter I never thought that I would have a daughter who would love life so much Who would make me so happy Who would make me so proud And I Am And I Do

3/7/06

Icarus

Remember when I flew? Sill-wet-wings wide against the sky, Riding my own thermals, Born of the heat of passion And the winds of expectation.

Rising on hope and ambition Through the pull of limitations, I flew to a world of light, Carpeted by clouds. Pierced by minarets Of endless possibilities.

Remember when I flew? I was a god then. Rising toward certain destiny Free of rules and laws. Free of somber gravity.

I flew because I could. I had become a god-bird; A hawk in locked-winged break From my past, my self, My species.

Remember when I flew And I thought that flight Would last forever? How the sun called down to me To reveal the secrets of the light?

Even as my wings would soften And I heard my father's warnings Coming softly from behind, I knew that soaring called me; That my life depended on it; That in this risky flight to heaven Lay the answers of the light. Remember when I flew And came face to face with God? The confusion and the fear, The certainty and the joy, The friction of all opposites Searing, burning in bright light.

Shedding ambitions like feathers Dropping from my wings... I fell, Pulled by the glow of gravity To the sea where fusion waits. And I passed beside my father, Flying cautious circles in the sky, Calling to him imbued With the joy of understanding: 'Don't ever forget me father... And remember when I flew! '

(December 2004)

Inmortal

Pido que algo perdure.

El aliento de mi amor, dirijido a los que ame. Una palabra en la memoria de alguno que me escucho. Una imagen vaga en la mente de uno de los que me vio viniendo O que noto mi partida.

No puede ser que una vida acabe solo en cenizas O que una voz se pierda en un silencio vacio Aqui estuve para añadir, no solo para existir Para pelear sin rendirme No para desvanecer ante un viento caprichoso

Pero se que hasta las montañas se desgastan con el tiempo Las lluvias, a pedazitos se las llevan Y las mesclan con el mar. Igual mi huella en la arena Con firmeza se despliega Ante la ola que viene Con intencion de arrazar.

Pero eso es solo mi huella Ya yo pase por ahi Y lo que borra la ola No es mas que una semejanza A aquello que la imprimio.

Ven, dime lo que perdura No es mi cuerpo No es mi alma, Ni los pensamientos que yo pense

Apurate, dime pronto, Que la ola se amontona Y rompe sobre la orilla,

...Y necesito saber.

(Octubre 2008)

La Búsqueda

Porque tu amor se perdió Adentro de una botella, Hoy vacio dos al día Intentándolo encontrar.

2010

Memories

There comes a time in your life Where you grasp desperately To time; Dig your heels, Grab its wings, And attempt to hold it back.

This is when memories become Like heavy stones In your pockets, When your footprints become deeper In the sands you leave behind.

This is where you become cautious – Afraid to let go and fly; Where you need to push your hands Into the ground beneath you; Where your roots reach out for bedrock Looking for meaning to grasp.

Holding on to time and breath – Hoping to make them last. Your fear overcomes your wonder; Fear that the end will come. That there will be one last memory... And one exhaling breath... Alone.

(December 2004)

Moan From A Wounded Heart

Chocolate on your lips And a razor in your hand You walk away on bare feet Leaving bloody footprints Behind

(April 2009)

Night Fears

I've been here before... Not in the same place But on the same edge Of despair

I've seen thick darkness looming Just outside the firelight. And I've seen the eyes of disaster Shine in the shadows beyond.

I've heard the rustling and snorting Of hungry beasts in the forest That would carry off a child In a moment of distraction

I've kept the fire burning all night Vainly vying for brilliance Feeding wet logs to the blazes. And only making more smoke... Behind which the beasts could hide... And approach.

I've waited the night out Fighting sleep And fear And nightmares, Fingers tight Around a stone... A comforting weapon To deceive my dread

And then I've stared With red-rimmed eyes As the first hint of light from the morning Outlines the trees against the sky, Colors rolling slowly back As the mist lifts off the ground

And the wildflowers by the forest

Look kindly back at my fears, And morning blooms from the shadows While the forest lifts its fern carpet And soothes... And beckons...

And the stone drops from my hand And rolls silently into the ashes And I look around the clearing Half embarrassed Half amused And walk on through the living forest Careful, quiet... Not to wake the sleeping child.

(Fall 2007)

Scattered

Inward – Inward we fall Like the silent snow That falls As they scatter our ashes. Spread by loving hands Over those fields We wandered, And thought We loved so much That we wanted to become Part of them Forever

Outward – Outward we glance From every spec of dust We have become -And see ourselves In the wind, And in the trees, And in the trees, And on the leaves, And on the eyelashes Of our beloved Staring into their eyes -Seeing But not being

Seen

Upward – Upward we fly To the heavens Lifted By unseen drafts, Soaring Over distant memories Of possibilities And lovers Loved, And others Left, And others Leaving

Downward – Downward we're cast In great relief And great Release As we float down From open palms -A journey to earth That took a lifetime And brought us back To being Everything From being

Nothing.

(Fall 2007)

The Journey

The journey begins in earnest, Away from the wayward light, Into dark corners, And dark secrets, And dark feelings of despair.

To find those heavy stones, Long ago Placed carefully Over muddy holes, And discarded colored ribbons Once tied neatly 'round your heart -

To places where breath had failed you, And your mind had taken cover, And your eyes had turned rebuffing The dark secrets of the truth.

Eyes, once closed, Now opened By an unfamiliar will – Your own...

You offer yourself to the sacrifice, Like a virgin to the knife Of an ancient Mayan priest -To pry open your chest, removing Your beating heart, and holding it In front of your eyes To see.

And as you die, Your beating heart Still beating, Is placed in another breast, Reborn...

Virgin no more – Raped in gusts By the endless winds of knowledge. Receiving your heart of mystery No longer furtive in the dark.

Reach out and take your new burden Of freedom And truth

And fly...

(January 2005)

The River

She sits by the river With her toes breaking the water And she wonders at the current And the paths where it may lead her And she prays that it will take her If she had the will to dive in But she fears it may be deeper Than the thoughts that seem to drive her And she feels a certain sadness That she hasn't jumped in sooner And she feels a certain panic That perhaps she will not jump in That the river will keep going Past her toes that break the water And the current will keep flowing Past the reaches and the prospects of her life

She stares down at the water Carrying leaves and twigs and branches Carrying dreams and hopes and wishes Round the bend and past the island Disappearing from her vision But engraved like grooves on granite In the wishful, longing visions of her mind. And she knows that life awaits her And she knows that she must summon All the will that has escaped her All the strength that she possesses She must slip into the water And the current it must take her Or it just may keep on flowing Past the reaches and the wishes of her life

And she knows that it is fated And with strength and will and panic She leans out above the river And she lets her weight just pull her And she plunges in the water And she feels the current take her Like the hands and arms and bosom Of a kind and caring mother And she lets the river guide her Like her father always sought to And she looks back at the shoreline Where her childhood and her safety Stretch their arms as if to reach her And she knows that they're just memories That her life is down the river And she lets the current take her And she feels the strength inside her And the river it keeps flowing Toward the reaches and adventures of her life

(January 2009)

To my daughter C. going off to college. Good luck - you'll always be my Sweetiepie.

The Seeker Of Love

We look for love in another, Seeking the one who loves, ... who's within.

Love is not need; it's acceptance It does not project, it observes. It holds no expectations of someone, It simply feels, ... and celebrates.

Seek, search, you will find it, But start the search in the soul Look at your eyes in the mirror See the love that's deep within.

It doesn't come whole in a package. It isn't all in one place. Bit by bit all around us. Scattered stones In a field.

And the field... After such a long journey ...was always found in ourselves.

(May 11,2008) To J. - Happy Mother's Day

The Wall

Who are you there, on the other side? At times I hear your faint scratching, your movements across the thin wall.

For a long time I thought you no longer lived there. One day, long ago, I just stopped hearing your noises.

You were louder in the old days. The stomping of your feet as you moved across the floor resounded through my room. I knew you were there.

You used to scream back then – sometimes in anger, sometimes in warning – always in passion.

Even over the cacophony of your many visitors your voice always stood out – booming across the wall in supreme confidence... as if you had all the answers.

Your voice called to me and I would sit countless hours, my ear pressed against our paper-thin wall, hoping to understand your strange language, to gain your knowledge, your largeness, your noise.

That was many years ago, when I was convinced there were paths and destinations, and I was positive your language was learnable, and I would learn to speak it, and understand it, and one day my room would be full of visitors, and noise, and my voice would boom above all others with the serene loudness that brought the clamor to their lips and peace to my heart.

But one day the sounds subsided. Maybe you became quieter. Maybe my ears grew deaf to your particular noise. Maybe the view out the window became more interesting, more germane, than the sounds across the wall.

The colors thrilled me – and as I stared at them in hopeful wonder, I saw patterns in the abstract and believed I could see the solid in the swirl, the material in the mist, the concrete in the colors.

I didn't hear your noises then. I thought you had left. Sometimes, I forgot you had even been there. Sometimes... I thought you never had. My voice now boomed in my ears. I had no time for listening to walls.

Fascinated, I saw the swirls, and colors and mists gel into an image of perfect clarity. The answers lay before me. Back then, I would rather choose a moment of perfect vision than an eternity of ambiguity.

In unblinking wonder I stared, congratulating myself for my wisdom and fortune...

Until a wind blew tiny specs of dust into my eyes, and I blinked, and teared, and looked up and saw again the swirling mists of colors, and my chest pressed into my heart, and I understood the illusion.

It has been very quiet since then. I no longer hear my booming voice only anxious gasps and disappointed sighs.

Even in the humming silence, I heard no sounds across the wall.

But one day, I thought I heard something – the soft swishing sound of your sole across the floor, your fingers scratching at your temple, pages turning in a book.

Vaguely, I remembered the noise of years ago – the confidence and certainty they contained, the promises I heard in them.

It is different now. The noises are quiet, more tentative – as if you were listening to me.

Who are you there, on the other side? Why are you so familiar and yet so different than before? What happened to your gilded days of glory and absolute certainty? Are you also learning, as I did? Do you now know that wisdom means living with vagueness and doubt? That peace comes from both, caring and chaos?

I know who you are now – God, and you are as confused as I am, and you seek, just as I do – and you can be as lonely as I.

The wall between us is thin. Are we ever to meet each other? If you need me, will you ever call out?

Or are we to spend eternity, two frightened men, our ears pressed against each other, listening through a paper-thin wall?

(November 2003)

Tu Lo Que Ta Tosta

(recitado al estilo de Luis Carbonell)

Oyeme nina tu me tienes, loco con el veniva Me tienes hablando en chino, no te entiendo ni pa na Ya tengo falluco el coco, en rumbo pal majalla Tu me cambias como el viento, vas de calma a tempesta Ami me pareceme mijita que tu lo que ta tosta.

Me dices, te quiero darlin', te llevo a ti nama Despues me cuelgas el bejuco sin niun 'bye', niun 'como esta' La proxima vez que me hablas es un cuento y ja ja ja Y yo todavia pensando que estas media encabrona Yo no se pero eso me dice que tu lo que ta tosta.

Yo no se si te das cuenta, pero tienes tremendo maja Es un tipo que te quiere, y te dice la verda Todo te lo resuelve, es lo mejor que hay palla Te aguanta tos lo paquete y no dice niun ji niun ja Si tu no te das de cuenta, tu lo que ta tosta

Yo no se de tus sospecha, no hay ni razon ni na Lo que pasa es qu'ese tipo, el te quiere de verda No lo trates con desprecio, no te pongas tan pesa Date con un canto en el pecho, ten cuidao que se va, Si no lo agarras mijita, tu lo que ta tosta

Vete a ver al pi-siquiatra y suelta la jutia ya Que esa cosa, tu lo sabes, no te alluda ni pana Oye mujer no lo jodas, no lo trates e'aministra Aceptalo como viene, que igual que viene se va Y si dejas qu'eso pase.... Ahi si que tu ta tosta.

(Julio 11,2007)

Whisper

Stillness... Stillness, still. The dark surface of the water Calmly, quietly in wait For the breath of Wind To crease it. Lines of ripples where it passes, Whispering to the silent depths.

JFR – March 2009

You Lived

In the fleeting moment of a memory, You live your life. At the end all you have is the memory – The exhale – Moments seen in the ethereal, Vanishing like smoke, Unique to you As no one else... you lived.

(December 2004)