

Migration to Metropolitan Washington: Making a New Place Home

I Un diez de mayo
A los Estados Unidos salí
No quise ver atrás
Mi vida entera quedó.

(Coro)

Mis niñas,
Mis niñas del alma
Nunca pensé separarme.

II Pasé laderas,
Pasé montañas
Los mares también
Para llegar aquí.

(Coro)

Mis niñas,
Mis niñas del alma
Jamás pensé separarme.

III Tras las paredes me encuentro
Vacía del alma
A Dios le pido su fuerza y su amor
Con mano de hierro he de continuar.

(Coro)

Mis hijos del alma
Por amor a ustedes
He de continuar.

IV Mariposita, mariposita,
Llévale mi amor a mis hijos del alma
En este mundo
Sola me encuentro.

(Coro)

Mis hijos del alma
Ven a media noche
Ven a acompañarme.

V Yo les doy mi vida entera
A mis niños del alma
Por qué mundo cruel
Por qué me separa
De aquellos seres
Que tanto quise
Y que tanto adoré.

(Coro)

Diosito Santo,
Por qué me castigas
Si mi delito fue
Quererte a tí.

I On a tenth day of May
I left for Washington
I did not want to look back
My whole life was left behind.

(Chorus)

My dearest children,
Beloved children of my soul
I had never planned to separate from you.

II I crossed many a hillside,
And many a mountain
Rivers and lakes as well
In order to arrive in this city.

(Chorus)

My dearest children,
Beloved children of my soul
I had never planned to separate from you.

III Today I find myself enclosed within these walls
With an empty soul
I ask God to grant me strength and his love
So that I may continue with unyielding determination.

(Chorus)

My dearest children of my soul
Out of love for you
I shall continue.

IV Little butterfly, little butterfly,
Carry my love to the children of my soul
I feel alone in this world.

(Chorus)

Dearest children of my soul
Come at midnight, come at midnight
To keep me company.

V I give my entire life
To the children of my soul
Why does this cruel world separate me
From those beings whom I so love.

(Chorus)

Dearest God,
Why do you punish me so
If my sin was to love you with all my soul.

By a Central American mother of seven children

Translated by Lucy M. Cohen