



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

Dear colleagues, students and friends,

I offer a poem to extend our empathy and support for the Haitian people, in this, and so many hours of need.

In solidarity,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

Haití by Sherezada (Chiqui) Vicioso

Haití
te imagino virgen
antes de que piratas precursores
te quitaran sus vestidos de caoba
y te dejaran así
con tus senos redondos al aire
y tu falda de yerba desgarrada
apenas verde,
marrón y tímida.

Haití
te imagino adolescente
olorosa a vetiver, tierna de rocío
sin esa multitud de cicatrices
con que te integraron al mercado de mapas
y con que te ofrecen multicolor
en las aceras de Puerto Príncipe
en Jacmel, en San Marcos, en el Artibonite
en un gran baratillo de ojalata.

Haití
caminante que afanosa me sonrías
interrumpiendo siestas de veredas
aplastando piedras, asphaltando polvo
con tus pies sudorosos y descalzos.
Haití que tejes el arte de mil formas
y que pintas las estrellas con tus manos
descubrí que el amor y el odio
como tú se llaman.

Haiti, translation by Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

I imagine you a virgin
before forerunning pirates
had removed your mahogany dress
to leave you thus
with your bare, round breasts
and your torn grass-skirt
barely green,
timidly brown.

Haiti
I imagine you an adolescent
Fragrant vetiver, tender with dew
without the numerous scars
displayed in the traffickers' maps
and multicolor banners sold
on the sidewalks of Port-au-Prince,
Jacmel, Saint-Marc, and Artibonite
in a dramatic tin plate bargain.

Haiti
traveler who eagerly smiles at me
interrupting the quiet of paths,
softening stones, paving dust
with your sweaty, bare feet.
Haiti, who can give art a thousand shapes
and who paints the stars with your hands
I found out that love and hate
share your name.

Selected from *Poems of Exile and Other Concerns/Poemas del exilio y de otras inquietudes*, a bilingual selection of the poetry written by Dominicans in the U.S., edited by Daisy Cocco De Filippis and Emma Jane Robinett. New York: Alcance, 1988, p. 40, p. 52.

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