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Not Him, Sister's Stories & Teresita (Poems)

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SMALL SCHOOL.
BIG VALUE.

Not Him

Antoinette Sedillo López

Alcoholics drink all the time.

faces falling loose around the head,

hair dull with shame.

he really wasn't an alcoholic

he only drank on week-ends

and he looked good.

alcoholics smell like sour beer

bodies yellow like the babies

jaundiced with the strain of living on their own

he really wasn't an alcoholic

he smelled like mint and leather

and his skin was bronze,

alcoholics lose their jobs.

random life styles chokes

their friends and family who finally leave.

he really wasn't an alcoholic

he worked hard and he only called her "*puta*"

when he was *borracho*; it's just the drink,

don't you think?

alcoholics go to bars

everyone knows who they are

drinking their pay while kids cry *hambre* eating
up their hearts

he really isn't an alcoholic

he drank his whiskey at home

and gave grandma his check every week

alcoholics die young

bodies rotting from the poison eating
livers and love.

he lied

about living

to see me finish school

pride eluded his life

when he died.

Sisters' Stories

Antoinette Sedillo López

Colonization

Indian Women

Were given

or gave themselves

(rape)

reproduced

(birth)

cared for their

children.

Their work produced

wealth

for Spaniards under rules

(colonization)

dictated by Spaniards (men).

Spaniards

satisfied their needs;

they accumulated

wealth

and passed it on

to their white children (men).

African Women

African Women

were stolen

or sold

(slavery)

reproduced

(rape)

cared for their

and their masters' children

Their work produced

wealth

for owners under rules

(slavery)

dictated by whites (men).

Slavemasters

satisfied their needs;

they accumulated

wealth

and passed it on

to their white children

(men).

Spaniards left their mark

Slavemasters left their mark

on the faces, bodies,
names
of the children
(colonization)
and on the backs and bodies

of the women
whose earth brown faces
will never disappear.

on the faces, bodies
names
of the children
(oppression)
and on the backs and
bodies
of the women
whose earth brown faces
will never disappear.

Teresita

Antoinette Sedillo López

He bought
her body
for sheep, guns and a cow
from starving indigenous
poor.

He brought
her spirit
into his home
away
from her people,
alone.

Sixteen years of life
she has lost her tongue,
dying to herself.

Six years of children,
she had lost her will
dying to this world.

They say
she died
of a broken heart.

Women died
back then
alone
with child
alone
with pain
alone
with hunger
alone
with cold
alone
with sacrifice
alone
with disease
alone
with loveless soul.

Who can say she left this life?

They say
pray a rosary for Teresita,
no saint helped her then.
Perhaps Our Lady helps her now.