Sweet Summer Boy
By Florencio Maldonado Vaca

You were made to be loved 
with the same burning passion 
of the Sun that witnessed your birth 
your smile is reminiscent 
of a crisp morning sunrise 
your eyes are warm pools of honey 
tender, sweet and ready to love 
your skin, so golden brown 
sun-kissed, like your ancestors 
you are an act of resilience; 
a cactus blooming in the desert 
a reminder of empires long gone¹ 
and a testimony of their strength 
you are a prince, sweet summer boy 
crowned with stubborn black hair 
like your fathers, it cannot be subdued 
you are the golden eagle² that soars the sky 
and the fierce jaguar³ that roams the night 
indomitable like a tropical storm, 
they were not able to end you 
those with iced eyes and pale skin⁴ 
they have tried to change you⁵; 
they burned your books, destroyed your temples 
and made your tongue taboo 
they tried to erase your history 
and make you unworthy 
but you cannot be brought down, sweet summer boy 
for you are the Sun

Endnotes
1. A reference to the indigenous empires that existed prior to the arrival of the European invaders in 1542.
2. The golden eagle is the national bird of México; displayed in the Mexican coat-of-arms.
3. The jaguar is the national mammal of México and played a prominent role in native Mexican mythology.
4. Referencing the European invaders, who had light colored eyes and fair skin.
5. After the fall of the native empires, the Spanish government tried, and to an extent was successful, in eradicating native culture by prohibiting the use of indigenous languages, the practice of local religions and the burning of native texts.