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The Vernal Pool

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Journal

The Vernal Pool, 5(2)

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Publication Date

2019

DOI

10.5070/V352041386

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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.