

## **DIA DE LOS MUERTOS**

**by Abelardo B. Delgado**

Renacen los huertos, tambien los muertos.

The orchards regenerate, and so do the dead.

El dia de los muertos podemos platicar con los seres queridos fallecidos.

On the day of the dead, we can talk with our loved ones who have passed away.

I remember tagging along, chasing my abuela, my grandmother,  
To el camposanto, the cemetery, to sell paper flowers to make the somber tombs bright.  
That was back in Mexico.  
I was only seven years old.

Here in the U.S., los muertos are personas non gratas.  
Here we do not wish to hold dialogue with los muertos.  
They remind us we too will eventually join them.

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Here in the U.S., the idea is to hide, to ignore the dead,  
And even to avoid death in our conversations.  
In Mexico la muerte is well known.  
She's la talaca, [TRANSLATION?] a feminine figure.  
Our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters call her "la flaca." [TRANSLATION]

Talking with the dead is necessary to remind ourselves to enjoy our lives  
And not go about as if we had already died,  
And no one said good-bye or cried.