

A FEW WORDS

Javier Tafur González' poetry has an agile and elegant gait, somewhat like that of a gazelle prancing through the forest. When you come upon it turned into a book before your eyes, you will surely feel that you have arrived in a country bordering on dreamland, intangible in spite of being real and almost near enough to touch. Just as love and oblivion, the honey suckle that didn't expect the poet's visit, and the wind bringing birds and flowers are real. So are childhood's lemon tree, the startled sparrow, and the bouquet of red carnations the messenger boy is carrying down the street...and the nostalgia lingering above the left breast.

Thus, this writing, the exact image of the poetic act that in its best interpretations is the transmutation of the apparent word into another sphere which unfolds beyond our sight and our hands, and as the halos encircling sacred figures, it surrounds objects and beings and makes the loved one more beloved and the rose we touch more rose-like. The limit that must be crossed in order to produce authentic poetry has been transcended.

And aspect that attracts our attention and makes us pause over these pages of Javier Tafur Gonzalez' *Personal Anthology* is the air of mystery circulating through it. Suddenly, the voice disappears in smoke and shadows rise to take its place. Then, when day breaks again, it seems as if someone has just opened a Japanese screen before our eyes on which butterflies flutter and the cherry blossom surrenders its blushing beauty. Haiku music sounds with the turning of the pages.

The verses that fill hours with pleasure have issued forth during a lifetime dedicated to creating beauty. Many probably lying halfhidden in secret sands have now been rescued by the light. Just as when strolling along the seashore we discover snail shells and nacre conchas brought to the surface by the intermittent play of the unceasing wave, we bend down to pick them up as we do now with these lines, and the joy of the discovery illuminates our heart with its expression.

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