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?

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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).

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).

Spaniards
satisfied their needs;
they accumulated
wealth
and passed it on
to their white children (men).

Slavemasters
satisfied their needs;
they accumulated
wealth
and passed it on
to their white children
(men).

Spaniards left their mark
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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.

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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.