

# The Boy

They came to town to look for him  
because there was nowhere else  
to find him and send him to fight their enemies.  
We got used to seeing buzzards  
scavenging on the outskirts of town  
tearing down clothes from the fences  
and searching through the undershirts, looking for meat.

He left his marbles in the square  
along a line clouded by nostalgia,  
left the multicolored fish  
with their evening dreams  
and left misery swinging  
among the coffee trees.

The sobs of his friends,  
the daughters of Marutsíí,  
grew in his bones  
as they begged the dust and the stones  
for him not to be taken.

They masked him with the afternoon  
and hung an AK-47 on him,  
three hand-made rosaries with deer's eyes,  
and sent him out to hunt men,  
and to eat with death at the table.

Ever since then they've said  
that we Mountain people  
are good for that  
and they haven't stopped carrying off our young boys,  
sowing death in their hands.

## Adà

Nìguwá gí'yàà ènè xàbò tsí jùdá ajwàn' ná xuajñùún  
numuu rí nìgí'duu xkujndu  
khamí nangwá ì'gùùn mùtsañuú gajmíí i'wíí xàbò,  
tsetse ma' nàwí'ñuú dxá'án tsú'kwè,  
ikhiin tsí nà'phò xuwi ná ndawaá xuajñàn ló,  
ikhiin tsí nùrigú amaà' ná ajwàn' xkàradí,  
ikhiin tsí nùkuxè jnàwùún khamí nònè ngííí ijíín gò'ò ná júbàá.

Xó ma' ikhaa nìññuu xndú tsígun' ná awùún rómbò  
ná ikhoo idi rí jàgù tsíngína,  
khamí nìññuu igí' tsí mixtíín ná awùún xnú'ndoo mbro'on,  
khamí nìññuú ná awùún ixè kafé  
tsímbe ná nàxtráka mìnà' rí tsíngína ló'.

Xó ma' ná awùún ìtsuu nì'kà ràgajàà iya idùún  
ijíín gò'ò Marutsíí tsí nimbáxuún gajmíí,  
ijíín gò'ò tsú'kwè nìndxá'wè ná nítuxuú yujndà' khamí ìtsí,  
rí màxá'gá jí'yáà gònè xàbò.

Xàbò tsí judà ajwàn' nìxùdaa xtá inuu,  
khamí nìstrákèè mbá xkamídá rí mbijwà ná xpaphòò,  
atsú tsákuun iduu àñà' ná ñawùún,  
ikànjgó ikhaa nìgí'dúú nìgudiín xàbò  
mí nì'gíí rí tsíngína inuu ixè xaphoo xuajñùún.

Numuu mbi'í rú'kwè, nakhi rí nìgàjì'yàà  
nuthèèn rí tsáá xàbò júbà ñajwàn xò,  
maján ènè xò ñajun rú'kwè mé'  
numuu rú'kwè tsetse nàguwá xàbò  
tsí nagòó ju'díín ijíín xuajen  
khamí nudii ga'khò ná ñawùún èjèn tsú'kwè.

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