

NO ANSWERS—NOW OR EVER

On Sept. 19, 2005, a baby boy was born & died at milepost 19 on the Arivaca Road. In late 2015 he was identified as "Arizaga."

No matter how many times I ask
you do not answer my question
you leave me only with this
ten years ago you birthed a baby
along an Arizona roadside
what created this child
love or rape

I ask did you leave for a better life
for both of you more safety
less dirt floors, broken glass, hunger
move north no money take a chance
start alone promise money later
start with a lover no promise
you do not answer my questions

No matter how many times I ask
you do not answer, instead you
walk, walk, walk, thirst
hunger, tire, walk further
no birds, no shade, no water
drink your urine your body rebels
you fall, struggle, now alone
now, always alone

No matter how many times I ask
did the road look like a good place
maybe help, maybe water,
had the pains begun faster and faster
did you stop, lie down, try not to scream

try not to push when the small body
slid out between your legs
blood and water no breath

cord around its neck
you hold your tongue

I ask did you cut the cord
take the knife you carried
separate yourself from that small
bundle of unbreathing flesh
did you take diapers from
your backpack, wrap this babe
born on borrowed land
leave it for animals or someone
you cannot answer this

No matter how many times I ask
you cannot answer
did you hold this bundle of death
weep and tell about the life
that might have happened
work, play, school, laughter
ice cream, toys, baseball
did you share this under stars
that night when there were
no angels, shepherds, or magi

Only endless dark silence
the smell of blood and death

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