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The Caravan

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The Caravan

Gabriel C. Paez

Prosthetic limbs push across a continent
 Broken bones are no match for the determination
 To upright history, so long desaparecido
 Under black bags
 Over faces, with blistered manos tied behind backs
 Mass graves as fertilizer for this jardín
 With raíces gruesas and thorns like a crown

Move north in migration
 Follow the butterflies
 Cactus and stone
 Woven sombreros worn thin
 The sun like a planet riding brown backs
 Children whisper in ears
 To walk on, adelante

el hambre no sabe fronteras
 la habilidad de caminar por esta tierra
 Jamas me la negaras
 Soy hijo de este único continente
 Y sigo en los pasos de mi gente
 Lleno a los parques con mis hijas de trencitas
 Escucho el cantar de once millones de abuelitas
 Que cocinan al aire libre y se rien
 Siempre por donde pasan

The caravan continues in a rhythmic pace
 Practiced by the constellations
 Flowing across borders without documentation
 Weather patterns more ancient than any nation
 Guide towards a rightful destination

The infants José
 And Mariana with toasted almond skin
 have eyes that follow yellow desert birds
 Parents perch under boulders
 That stand in prehistoric guard
 Unmoved

Uncarved by the invisible river
 Of wind
 Exhaled in prohibition
 A contraband breath
 A criminal swallow of water
 A demographic threat in a can of peas

Broken sandal against black boot
 Refugee child against billionaire machine
 Arms linked in song against electrified fence
 History against illusion
 Justice against death.

