Revisiting One Of My Oppressions

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Revisiting One of My Oppressions

Alejandra Palafox

I grew up as a Christian Latina
Wondering about my internal religious oppression.
I asked myself, “Am I still a Christian for sinning the way I did?”
Did I betray my religion for embracing my sexuality?

I still pray, you know, but I wonder if he still listens.
I don’t go to church anymore, but I still believe in him.
Is our relationship still the same?
I know it’s not, because this time I’m honest with myself.

I went to church this past summer, I felt his presence.
But it wasn’t the same, I felt like an outsider.
This burden I carry of meeting the Christian expectation
Doesn’t allow me to be fully at peace.

When I hear your name I pretend I didn’t.

Te quiero olvidar pero, ¿cómo?
Mi testimonio contigo es lo que me une a tí,
Y es lo que me da la fortaleza para entrar a tu casa.

I want to forget about you, but how?
My testimony joins me to you,
And it’s what gives me the Strength to walk into your house.