

like fireflies in the night
dreaming up the cosmos

Sequence before the Silence

enfolding them far and wide in the arms
of our care and love and devotion, making
them part of our morning time together
by naming them aloud or holding their faces
in our silent hearts.

The Second Reading

Within the house of the flowering seasons,
you make the people happy.

The city of San Miguel, where Farley and Virginia live, is simply one of the most charming towns on the whole earth. Like so many before me, I was seduced by the red, blue and gold houses, and the steep, cobblestone streets. I laughed inside the strange cathedral, which sported frescoes of Lenin and Trotsky at the foot of the cross, and peyote buttons carved

sophisticated, varied and delicious on earth. (Indeed, they discovered how to make chocolate, which alone makes them great in my book!)

but to the mysterious Giver of Life, the unknowable, nameless and unfathomable power behind the universe. The temple rose high, toward the sky, and in its many stories were images of human beings, and the animals and plants and the stars, the beauties of creation, if you will. These things were for meditation only, not gods that demanded sacrifice. Meditating on creation, he suggested, was the chief way any human mortal can apprehend the Giver of Life. You cannot worship by

*from herbals of the Indians
of my own country, spilled their old*

They knew that just because blood had been shed for centuries, it no longer should be shed. They also knew that their religious life was basically good except for that one thing. They knew that elders must still

the world, and who gave up thinking that the universe was

whereever we find ourselves...in Mexico on top of a pyramid, or right here in the U.S. of A...on a local street, or in our own back yard.

Offertory

The gifts of the people are for the people.
For the offering is a circle that signs the whole.
We both give and receive the gifts,
by this act of consciousness that proclaims
that everything that is solid
must stand on a solid foundation.

Closing Prayer (Returning)

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