

# The One Who is Always There

By Otto Rene Castillo

You,  
    comrade,  
the one who is always there.  
The one  
who never fell back.  
Shit!  
The one who never  
played coward  
with the flesh of the people.  
Who stood up  
against beatings and jail,  
exile and shadow.

You,  
    comrade,  
the one who is always there.

And I love you  
for your timeless honor,  
—little sensitive animal,  
for your faith,  
greater  
and more heroic  
than all the giants  
of all religions combined.

But, you know,  
the centuries to come  
will stand on their toes  
on the shoulders of this planet,  
trying to touch your dignity  
burning with courage  
                    even then.

You,  
    comrade,  
who never betrayed  
your people,  
                    with tortures  
                    nor with prisons,  
                    nor with graft,  
you,  
    tender star,

will come of age with pride  
for the delirious millions  
emerging  
from the depths of history  
to give you glory,  
                  you,  
modest and human,  
simple proletariat,  
the one who is always there,  
unbreakable  
metal of the land.