



"there she is/ shining bright in the middle of the pacific ocean/she holds the key to the orient/ a blessing and a curse...there she sits in the middle of the pacific ocean/ the tides tipping her into a million pieces/ holding the key she never even asked for/ she will swallow that key if she has to/ for she serves no masters/ and that's why neither do i/ pinay till i die"



*"A Mexican immigrant from Villahechmosa.
A gardener who misses the sea,
He listens to reggaeton and bachata on his phone.
His daughter was recently sick back home.
He hasn't seen her in 15 years."*



"I was born in a pale pink house next to the 10 freeway in Santa Monica. My Dad was born in Los Angeles before the 405 was built. Our ancestors were born in L.A. before streets or highways were named and numbered in English or Spanish; on my Dad's side I'm Tongva. I grew up in L.A., but moved to the Bay Area because I hated all of those freeways."



"A student leader of the Beijing Democracy Movement in 1989, an advocate of the civil rights movement, a network writer, a follower of Jesus Christ, has been jailed by the Chinese government three times in the past 28 years, still strong and unyielding. In his white hair years, he was forced to flee to California because his two young children could not go to school normally in China."



"...catching my American tongue when they call me 슈퍼동태지
분위 and other words I can't say but still hurt me.
practicing in my room everyday to get good at 고무줄 놀이

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education brought me where I am..."



"Empecé un camino en busca de una vida mejor y en esta tierra vi un nuevo mundo pero la realidad fue otra: la lucha contra el racismo, la desigualdad latina y sobre todo aprender un nuevo idioma... mi almohada guarda muchos sentimientos encontrados al recordar mi país en el cual está mi familia que tanto extraño, mis amigos y sobre todo sus riquezas naturales. Pero siempre sale el sol aun cuando el día ha sido gris"