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## Trip to Guatemala

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## Trip to Guatemala

*The Daughter Talks, the Tourist Listens*

Every morning our mother  
ties our braids all up  
with multicolored ribbons  
and all you want most of you  
is to take our pictures.  
Buy something from us! After  
all, our mother, she does  
nothing but sit all day  
in the market with the other  
sisters and brothers 5 or 6 of them  
selling oranges and watermelon  
slices. All she wants is to give, money  
to the church. To put up a little cross

secuestros

asesinados

heridos

asesinados

Felipe Quiéju Culan  
Pedro Dominican Vasques

edad

45 años

nació

el mes

de noviembre

1945

Ave Maria

and our christs and three kings  
sometimes wear towels and  
scarves  
for shawls

to be better dressed  
for our funerals  
as we sing  
carrying the coffin  
of the recent government  
victim out and we would also  
like to play  
basket  
ball  
please señorita  
can't you help us at all?

*And the Other Daughter Talks,  
And the Tourist  
Though Squirring  
Still Listens*

...our brother  
    he sits in the streets  
    surrounded by  
    firewood  
    trying to sell  
and our grandmother  
she sits barefoot  
swollen foot  
on her knees  
blanket/cloth  
folded across her head  
selling bananas  
but she is too old  
and nobody buys from her  
please señorita  
can you give us nothing at all?  
and our youngest -- he sits in  
the dock with protruded belly and fever  
begging for peanuts and galeterias  
and we go to the hang out  
    of the smoking and drinking god  
the goddess his partner  
    has another shrine  
    which is secret  
and all of us will laugh at you, our hands  
over our smiling mouths  
and we won't tell you anything at all

and we litter the streets on easter with  
flowers  
mañana means, señorita  
tomorrow will be better, even if today you  
were  
sick and disturbed and ill  
agitated by our disaster.

-Batya Weinbaum