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Abuela / Grandmother

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Abuela

Mi abuela cree en lo dulce
Galletas con mermelada después de la cena
Pequeños caramelos duros de merienda
Y en Ovaltine, que claramente es leche de chocolate

Pasta de guayaba cuidadosamente enrollada
para crear un postre fuerte relleno
Pedazos de mango chorreando de anaranjado
Codo a codo con queso blanco

¿No puedes ver que para ella, la comida es el amor?

Conquista con estos dulces
Lo amargo de envejecer bien
Se olvida de la gente, de las fechas, de la hora
Se acuerda de su mamá, una gran cocinera:

“Era mejor con el arroz,
jamás quemaba los plántanos,
nunca usaba el micro-ondas
como yo hago,” me dice en español.

La comida es maravillosa
pero le pica
mientras lo prepara y come menos
Se concentra en servir *the dessert*

Satisfacción de
la fruta de una isla que nunca conocí
El labor de horas con manos chiquititas
Manchas de edad que aguantan el azúcar

Para yo poder recordarme

Grandmother

My grandmother believes in sweets:
Crackers with jelly after supper
Little hard candies in between
And Ovaltine, which is clearly chocolate milk

Guava paste gently rolled into
a plump and overpowering dessert
Mango slices dripping orange
Rubbing shoulders with white cheese

Can't you see that with her, food is love?

In the sweets she conquers
The bitterness of aging well
Forgetting people, dates and time
Remembering her mother, a great cook:

"She was better with the rice,
Never burned the plantains,
Would have never used a microwave
Like I do," she says in Spanish

The food is wonderful
But it stings her
As she prepares it and eats less
Concentrating on giving out *el postre*

Satisfaction from
The fruit of an island that I never knew
The labor of hours with little hands
Age spots holding sugar

So that I can remember