



Land I Am From

No Mount Everest to be found here,
 But opportunity that can take you
 Higher, higher than Everest
Land of opportunity, you'd be a
 Fool not to take it.
Not like the land we came from
 Living in bamboo and thatch
While trying to make it worth while
 With what we had.

Indu Dulal, from an interview with her friend from Nepal, Krishna Dhakal

Coming to America for a Better Life

no dirt, no mud, just clean
 and fresh air.
no need to worry about your
 next meal
land of freedom and opportunity
 success from all directions
young and free, ready to move
 forward and
 get on with life
I will not forget the land I
 came from, it is a
 part that makes me
 who I am.

Krishna Dhakal, from an interview with her friend Indu Dulal

Llantos en la soledad/Cries of Loneliness

For many years, I was separated from them without seeing them.
Prisoner of my own destiny.
Doomed to endure the punishment and the cruelty of life.
Enclosed in the cell of solitude.
I demand of life: Why me? Why me?
I knew in my heart, I am innocent of all this.
Already I can't stand this punishment.
The only evil I did was love and fight for those I love.
They, innocent who paid this cruel punishment, that is my destiny.
Suffering and fighting alone against life.
Without understanding why we are condemned to this punishment, this destiny.
But always, having a hope that one day we can find freedom.

Durante muchos años, estuve separada de ellos sin poder verlos.
Prisionera de mi propio destino.
Condenada a soportar, el castigo y la crueldad de la vida.
Encerrada en la celda de la soledad.
Reclamándole a la vida: ¿porqué yo? ¿Porqué yo?
Sabía en mi corazón, soy inocente de todo esto.
Ya no soporto más esta condena.
El único mal que hice, fue querer y luchar por las que más amo.

Ellos, inocentes que pagaron este cruel
Castigo que me dio el destino.
Sufriendo y luchando solos contra la vida.
Sin comprender el porqué de este maldito
Castigo que el destino nos condeno.
Pero siempre, teniendo la esperanza
Que un día nos podamos encontrar en libertad.

Nelly Rivera, from an interview with her mother

Her Story

When you are fifteen, you have your set of friends
My sister was shy
I was always outgoing
When you are new and older, it is hard to make those friends.

She was grown
And I was younger—too young to miss England
Her home, my house
We took a test
I passed
She didn't

Five years.
Five years was all it took.
It was different for her
For me, it was all the same.

Aria Critchley, from an interview with her mother

Change is—
Goals and plans and deadlines
and once you figure it out
(how it helps you)
change is . . .

Change is—
Traumatic and stressful and control
and once you figure it out
(once you think ahead)
change is . . .

Change is—
From Italy to the Midwest to California
and once you get there
(where you're going to go)
change is. . .

Change is---
Security and big and real
and once you really think
(and know where you're going)
Change is an opportunity.

Jadee Hill, from an interview with her grandmother