

Nadia López García

Ntuchinuu

Me mayu kachi ñaa naan ntuchinuuu matsa'nu.
ntakuiniyu nishikaa ntuchinui mini katsi ñaa nuni.

Keenchua ntisiniyu ña tsaakuña kuaku,
sansoo tsaakuña ta seei ncheei
ta kata,
ta skai cafe.

Nintakatuuñaa nuvaa ¿Sakunchuaku maa?

Kasha ña sicaso yuha inikó kuaku:
yeenu kanara
nchaa'ka kuanu yuchaku.

Vichi kuñaa nikunta ini yuu
Vichi sika yucha iniyu
ra me ntuchinuu.

Nadia López García writes in Mixteco. Born and raised in the Caballo Rucio community of Santa María Yucuhito, Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca, she won the Cenzontle Prize for Literary Creation in Indigenous Languages for her collection *Ñu'ú vixó / Tierra mojada*. She was awarded a Fundación para las Letras Mexicanas grant for poetry, and translates for the Enciclopedia de la Literatura en México.

Nadia López García, trans. Anthony Seidman

Eyes¹

My mother says I have my great grandmother's eyes.
I remember her eyes while she husked corn.

On many occasions I saw her weep;
she wept while cooking,
while singing,
when setting the coffee.

For certain, I asked, Why is it that you weep so often, Ma?

Without stopping her tears, she would respond thusly:
because we have rivers within,
and sometimes they break forth. Your rivers have yet to grow,
but they will do so shortly.

Now I understand everything,
now I have rivers within me,
within my eyes.

Anthony Seidman is a poet translator from Los Angeles. His recent books include Facundo Bernal's *A Stab in the Dark* (translated for LARB Classics) and a poetry collection, *A Sleepless Man Sits Up In Bed* (Eyewear Publishing). His work appears in *Poetry International*, *New American Writing*, *Conduit*, and more.

¹ Anthony Seidman worked with a Spanish-language copy rendered by the poet, and he was able to ask her about nuances and other characteristics of the poem's Mixteco original.