

Sowing Seeds

Para Daniel y Rebeca y sus bisabuelos de Zacatecas

my ancestors knew their grains
like each of their offspring
once planted
they watered and nurtured them
growing cycles
of sprouting sons and daughters
predicting harvests to come

my grandparents gathered
their thirteen children
to live with the land
of the land
for the land
cycles marked
year after year

these brothers and sisters
my uncles and aunts
on warm nights
sat in a circle
on the rooftop of the house
en el rancho
guitars and harmónicas
their favorite songs
rising to the stars
canciones de amor
love songs
like sighs and soft whispers
sung to the moon

in the fields
and on the rooftops
cycles marked
year after year
after year

From the CDs *Raza Spoken Here 1* and *When Skin Peels* © 1999 Elba Rosario Sánchez.