

ODE TO INTERNATIONAL AZTLAN MUSEUM

SILENTLY IN STILLNESS  
WITH QUIET DIGNITY  
YOU AWAITED OUR COMING  
TO RELEASE YOU FROM  
THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR  
MUTE IMPRISONED TOMB

---

SIX DECADES OF HISTORY HAVE PASSED  
AS YOU STOOD IN LIFELESS OBSCURITY  
UNKNOWN TO US OF YOUR BURIED TREASURE

YOUR SENSITIVE CREATOR  
JOSE MOYA DE PINO  
WHO LOVINGLY FORMED  
YOUR ROYAL FACES  
CROWNED YOU IN FANTASTIC HATS  
AND COLORFUL PLUMMED HEADDRESSES  
HAS ALSO PASSED 1891 - 1969

WE WHO HAVE DISCOVERED HIM  
NOW HOLD HIM DEAR  
LIKE A VANISHED SNOW CRYSTAL RARE  
THAT WAFTED IT'S GENTLE DESIGNS  
ON THE SHADOW OF OUR ANCIENT HISTORY

YES, WE WHO  
HOLD HIM DEAR  
SHALL NOT LET HIM  
FADE AWAY FOREVER

WE PLEDGE OUR CREATIVE SPIRITS  
IN HONOR OF OUR CULTURAL LEGACY  
YOU HAVE GIVEN TO THE WORLD

WE LOVE YOU DEARLY  
JOSE MOYA DE PINO  
YOUR CREATIVE SPIRIT LIVES  
IN OUR HEARTS AND BLOOD  
OF OUR ANCESTORS HEROIC TRAGIC DRAMA

YOUR CREATIVE SPIRIT LIVES  
IN OUR GRANDPARENTS  
AND IN OUR YOUTHS TODAY

IF NEED BE WE  
WILL CHALLENGE THE IMPOSSIBLE  
TO SET YOU FREE  
FOR YOUR LIBERATION IS IN AZTLAN  
THE BIRTH LAND OF CHICANO PARK

WE CANNOT DENY THE WORLD  
THIS CREATIVE HISTORIC SITE  
FOR THE PEOPLE TO  
MARVEL AS WE DID  
WITH OUR FIRST STEPS INTO  
THE SACRED TOMB OF AZTLAN

THERE WE STOOD IN SILENT AMAZEMENT  
INSPIRED AND INFLAMED WITH QUIET DISGUST  
AT THE THOUGHT OF IT'S DESTRUCTION  
AND DISASSEMBLED ART IN DISARRAY

GOD HELP US  
FOR IF THIS IS HOW  
SAN DIEGO CAN FORGET  
OUR HISPANIC MASTERS  
OF FINE ART  
HOW THEN WILL WE BE REMEMBERED?

COMPOSED BY SALVADOR ROBERTO TORRES  
MARCH 7, 1988