

# 20 DE LOS MUERTOS

# 15

# DIAS DE LOS MUERTOS

Artwork: Catalina Delgado-Trunk



**Today  
is not  
a day of...**

Parading giant skeletal puppets,  
Or  
Of something sinister,

Today is a day of understanding,  
Death as a part of life,  
A day of remembrance,  
Taking the time to honor,  
Our loved ones that have  
passed away,

It's time to clean the cemetery,  
Decorate the floors with  
Flowers, candles, and sweets,

Homemade altars,  
Adorn them with  
Photos, food, and dolls,  
Lighting the way with candles,  
So the souls  
find their way home,

Skip the parade,  
Face painting,  
Instead:  
Make an offering,  
A fresh bouquet,

Talk to your loved one,  
And  
Talk of your cherished one,  
As if they never left,

Day of the dead,  
Is suppose to be the time,  
When our loved ones return,

Did they ever really leave us?  
They are everywhere,  
they are the entities that  
surround us.  
—Ashley G.

**What did you do when she  
died?**

What did you do when she died?  
Nothing, really.  
She always said,  
“death is just the next step to living,”  
like a mantra.

Nothing, really.  
We had had these  
conversations all my life  
like oral instructions,  
“do not open  
Until I’m gone”

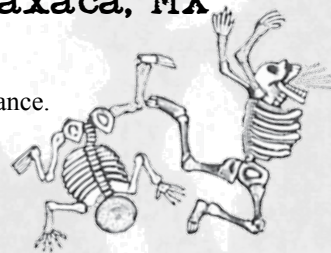
Nothing, really.  
How does one cry  
Or what does one cry about  
when all she said was,  
“death is just the next step to living.”

She never told me she’d always  
be by our side.  
or maybe I just wasn’t reading  
between the lines  
when she said,  
“death is just another step to living”.  
—Paul Piñeda

**Comparsa in Oaxaca, MX**

On the cobbled streets  
in masks, we sip mezcal & dance.  
Look! The children cry

from behind the bars  
of the school yard. We stop,  
grin and dance some more.  
—Alice-Catherine Jennings



**Hoy  
no es  
un dia de...**

Desfilear títeres de esqueletos gigantes,  
O  
De algo siniestro,

Hoy es un día para comprender,  
que la muerte como parte de la vida,  
es un día para recordar,  
Tomar el tiempo para honrar,  
Nuestros seres queridos que  
han fallecido,

Es hora de limpiar el cementerio,  
Decorar los pisos con  
Flores, velas y dulces,

Altars hechos en casa,  
los adornan con:  
Fotos, comida y muñecos,  
Iluminando el camino con velas,  
Así las almas encuentran  
el camino a su casa,

Omita el desfile,  
Pintura de la cara,  
En su lugar:  
Haz una ofrenda,  
Un ramo de flores recién cortadas,

Hable con su ser querido,  
y  
Hable de su ser querido,  
Como si nunca se hubiesen ido,

Día de los Muertos,  
Se supone que debe ser el tiempo,  
Cuando nuestros seres queridos  
regresan,

¿Alguna vez realmente nos dejaron?  
Están por todas partes, que son las  
entidades que nos envuelven.  
—Ashley G.