

Maria nga Ulay

Si Maria nga ulay
Kanunay'ng gibiyay-biyay
Pilian man kaayo
Halinon pang kabayo.

Si Maria mikatawa
Di baya ko baligya
Unsa ba'y pagtu-o nila
Bibingka kong bahaw na?

Kung si Undo mamili
Nganong ako dili
Pastilan baya'g madisgrasya
Asa ko man unya na iuli?

Ruby Enario

Maria The Spinster

Maria who's a spinster
is often mocked
since she's very choosy
a horse is more saleable

Maria laughed
I'm really not for sale
Do they think
I'm a stale rice cake?

If Undo can choose
why can't I
what if there's an accident
where would I then return that?

Bag-ong Tubo

Ako si Maria
Gitudloa'g luto ug laba
Aron mahalin
Di mabilin.

Siya si Pedro
Gipasagda'g duwa
Buntag hangtud udto
Kay lalaki way mawaa.

Ngano man diay
Kong ako magduwa
Ug si Pedro
Tudloa'g luto ug laba,
Sultihi kuno ko
Unsa may mawaa.

Ruby Enario

New Generation

I am Maria
taught to cook and wash
to be bought
not to remain.

He is Pedro
left to play
morning till noon
because he's male
and would lose nothing

So what if I play
and Pedro is taught to cook and wash
please tell me
what would be lost.

***Alang Kang Nana Salvacion
Edad, 69***

Paglabay sa gubat, mipauli sa probinsiya
Wa na mahibalik pa sa siyudad sa Sugbu
Ug di na bisag kanus-a pa mobalik didto
Sa ilawom sa balay sa eskina sa Junguera
Aduna pay gitisok nga kapungot nga wa mapapas
Bisan sa makadaghang pukot sa katuigan.

Kinsa may gustong mangutingkay sa nangagi
Aduna may daghang apo sa tuhod ug sungkod
Bisan pa ug ilubong ug bulawan ug sapi
Di pa mapapas ang labod sa dughan ug likod,
Ang hulagway sa mga dilang naglataylatay,
Sa alimpatakan may daa pang talidhay ug laway.

Pasaylo? Tabi, unsa, kinsa kana?
Iampo kau di litokon and pulong-pasaylo
Bisan ug putlon ang dila o maispidno
Siguro pinulongan ra kana sa langit
Sama ng ang sapi ug bulawan
Pinulongan ra sa may kinaadman.

Bisa'g kanus-a, dili pinulongan
Bisan pag pakapinan ug kabaw nga bulawan
Kay dili makatam-is asukar sa nangagi
Ang kaligutgut nga lubong sa bukog
Nanggamot sa edarang dugo ug kaunoran
Bawnon hangtud sa lubnganan.

Ruby Enario

***For Nana Salvacion
(aged 69)***

When war passed by
she went to the province
and has not returned to the city of Cebu since
and will never again return there
under the house in the corner of Junquera
there is still hatred sown which has not been
erased
even by the numerous nets of years.

Who would want to dig through the past
already she has many great grandchildren
and a cane
even if covered with gold and money
the welt on the chest and back cannot be erased
the picture of tongues crossing playfully
in brain still carries mocking laughter and
saliva

Forgiveness? Excuse me, but what, who is that?
pray because the word forgiveness will not be
mouthed
even if the tongue is cut destined to hell
maybe it is only the language of the heavens
just as money and gold
are the language of the wise.

Whenever, it will never be her language
even if offered a carabao made of gold
for it will not sweeten what has passed
the rage that is bone-deep
growing roots in this aged blood and flesh
will be carried till the grave
