

Where I'm From
By Frank R. Tellez

I'm from Tello, the Morning Star
From the Kingdom of Leon, the land from afar

The Muslims we battled, they were the invaders
We did this with guile, thus becoming the raiders

Blue blood flows throughout our veins
We're people in search of fortune and fame

I'm from Conquistadors of the Age of Gold
We fought with the Aztecs, standing fierce and bold

We settled around Tenochtitlan
And married the people in search of Aztlan

For centuries we lived and prospered as merchants
Some of us becoming civil servants

The Porfiriato was on us, like a stealth
So we came to this nation to rebuild our wealth

Hard work and determination helped keep our esteem
In this new land we were in search of our dream

We bought into the system that promised us position
It cost us our language, heritage, tradition

In America we prospered and thought we were white
Yet opportunity and access was not in our sight

We proved our mettle by giving our blood
But oppression overcame us, engulfed in a flood

We did all we could to enter the pot
But acceptance for us was never their thought

I fight for the people who seek equality
The battle is long against ir-rationality

We look to the future with faith and idealism
But everywhere I look, wrecks of racism

The battle is long and I see there is a chance
When we rise to the top, they'll be a great dance

Our people are here our arrival is loud
For I am Chicano; angry, brown, and proud