

Fit for a King

By Flo Barnes

I should have known that *this* tree was planted by a King —
Stately trunk, proud bouquet of branches flung upward to the sky.

These walls,
this courtyard,
this palpable history
Cannot contain a mighty being seeded long ago from some forgotten star

This tree, waving branches like banners, teeming with life -
emerald green sap
the alchemy of photosynthesis –
Wafts oxygen from its leaves to our lips

This tree moving unseen in the same mysterious dance as the planets

This tree planted by a King –
sparkly bird embellished bower
and friend of worm
Whose roots hold this dear earth together

These walls,
this courtyard
cannot contain this tree
This tree, with a sacred history all its own.

Twenty years in Tesuque have taught me to love the mighty cottonwood. Fast forward to a fine day in September after many rains. I saw this tree in the Palace of the Governor's courtyard and was struck by how proud it looked. The fact that it was planted by King Juan Carlos on a visit here on September 29, 1987, suited this tree.

Museum As Muse

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