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KARTIKA REVIEW

ONE QUESTION, SEVERAL ANSWERS

BARBARA JANE REYES

After Claire Kageyama-Ramakrishnan

Where did your father live?
House of Bamboo, Isle of Gold.

Where did your father live?
Tall reeds at the riverbanks.

Where did your father live?
Near the estuary, in a man-made refuse heap.

Where did your father live?
By a deserted mango tree.
With mangoes, oversweet mangoes dropping from that tree.

Where did your father live?
Battlefield trenches.

Where did your father live?
With binds of hemp rope.
Dirt floor and no bed.

Where did your father live?
Waiting in hulls to see the sun.
Waiting in cages like an animal.
Waiting for a state of grace.

Where did your father live?
In the forest cathedral.

Where did your father live?
With his sisters,
Ancients -- Diwata, Diosa.

Where did your father live?
In Mama Mary's heart.

Where did your father live?
Exodus, Revelation.

Where did your father live?
With 5 iron brands.
With typhoons and swamp grass.
With years as a guerrilla, warfare erasure.



Barbara Jane Reyes was born in Manila, Philippines, and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the author of *Gravities of Center* (Arkipelago Books, 2003) and *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfish Press, 2005), and *Diwata* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2010). Her chapbooks, *Easter Sunday* (2008), *Cherry* (2008), and *West Oakland Sutra for the AK-47 Shooter at 3:00 AM and other Oakland poems* (2008) are published by Ypolita Press, Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, and Deep Oakland Editions, respectively. Her poetry, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Latino Poetry Review*, *New American Writing*, *North American Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *XCP: Cross Cultural Poetics*, among others. She is an adjunct professor in Philippine Studies at University of San Francisco. She lives with her husband, poet Oscar Bermeo, in Oakland.