

For Adelita Grijalva on 11/12/25

when they swore
you in
i wept
when they finally called
your name
o sister
how proud i was of who you are
from where you came
to where you're going

for the electorate who voted for you
for justice for the victims of the powerful and predatory
for fairness for the farmers who tend the vast sundrenched fields
for the immigrants who are kidnapped and separated from their children
for the children so their bellies can be full in both morning and night
for us so we can breathe exhaling this suffocation of lies
and for your ancestors who paved this path for you

one might say this is a heavy load
to lay at your feet
but not for a woman
who has bled
who has birthed
who has listened and loved
you are woman

vested with power
of fires that burn
oceans that seethe
mountains that roar
rivers that bend
lightning that splits
and thunder that makes wicked men tumble
you are woman

your bones your heart your mind your spine
knows what it takes
to topple the regime
those pedophiles and lechers
cheaters and thieves
you are a woman who bleeds
and lives to read the coming chapter
into being

may autumn's last leaves
pave your path
and keep you safe
amidst the dangers
and may the four winds that blow
always point your compass due north
and let you not stray from course
and may the quiet stream feed your tongue
when you thirst for strength
in this work you have forged
for love