

Bilingual-bicultural Homogeneity for Sale

In the world of chingones, of difficult relationships, ruled by violence and suspicion - a world in which no one opens out or surrenders himself - ideas and accomplishments count for little. The only thing of value is manliness, personal strength, a capacity for imposing oneself on others.

Labyrinth of Solitude
Octavio Paz

You can keep your Californian ways, your New Mexican manners, your midwestern style. Somos hermanos, somos raza. Somos hermanos until we disagree, then out comes the dagger in the name of el movimiento. Your roots shall be questioned, your motives made suspect. Te hacen mierda, but don't worry, it's all in the interest of the common good. The common good as seen through eyes twisted by the need for power. If you question or doubt you have fallen prey to the white man's ways. Your honesty is naive, your ethics laughable. They have shown you the way-now follow.

It is useless to resist the pearl drop smile, the movements smooth and slow, the battlecry "Chicanopowerhuelgamiraza", the favors, the gifts. Inflate your chest and allow the wind to sift through your lacquered locks. By all means avoid trust and sensitivity, they are exceedingly messy and will only spoil your polish. Trade in your mind for their friendship. They shall swaddle you with their politica, stuff you with their words. Pay homage to your model- Mr. Chicano Super Stud, the smile before you the finger behind, self-appointed carrier of

the scales of chicanismo. He offers acceptance, just hand him your mind.

Disculpame, Mr. Stud, pero soy persona y quiero ser, and I don't need you to tell me how. My dreams aren't up for barter and I won't submit myself to the chains of any man- white or brown. Señor Chingon, your pendejadas are leading el movimiento down a path whiter than any one I've known. You are grinding our spirits and filtering them through your myopic views. But this one won't go. This one does not need the comfort of uniformity. This one can see the insecurity behind your facade, the corrosive potential of your acts. This one can listen and will be listened to.

If we are raza and hermanos - treat me as such. Respect my individuality and my right to disagree. Your oppression is as distasteful as the Anglo's but sadder still; and if we will not sell ourselves to him we certainly won't to you.

anna cardona

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