

## Yana Lucila Lema: 6 poems from *Tamyawan Shamukupani/ Living with the Rain*



Yana Lucila Lema studied Social Communication with a specialization in Television at the Central University of Ecuador. She also studied Creative Writing and received a Masters of Social Sciences with a concentration in Indigenous Issues at FLACSO. She obtained a degree in Audiovisual Journalism at the Jose Marti International Institute of Journalism in Cuba. She has collaborated with indigenous organizations such as the Confederacy of Ecuadorian Indigenous Nationalities (CONAIE), the Confederacy of Indigenous Nationalities from the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE), and the Confederacy of Peoples of Kichwa nationality (ECUARUNARI). In her work with CONAIE she created several videos about strengthening cultural identity among indigenous peoples. One of these videos, which focused on traditional medicine, was the winner of the First Nations of Abya Yala Film Festival. She was presenter for the Kichwa language newscast KICHWAPI for six and a half years on the national channel RTS. As a writer, she participated in the International Meeting of Indigenous Communicators and Writers in Indigenous Languages (UNAM-Mexico), the Conference of the Association for Writers in Indigenous Languages of Mexico, and the International Poetry Festivals of Medellin and Bogota (Colombia). Her poetry was included in the book *Las palabras pueden: Los escritores y la infancia* (UNICEF), the poetry anthology of indigenous nations of Ecuador *Ñaupa pachamanta purik rimaykuna / Antiguas palabras andantes* (Casa de la Ecuatoriana 2016), and in the special edition of the *Diálogo Magazine "Los cinco puntos cardinales en la literatura indígena contemporánea/ The five cardinal points in contemporary indigenous literature"* (DePaul University 2016). Currently, she works as a professor in the University of the Arts in Guayaquil.



Fredy A. Roncalla was born in Chalhuanca, Apurimac, Peru in 1953. He has studied linguistics and literature, in addition to a long journey in Andean Studies, with a special focus on aesthetic elements. He is also a handcraft artist who works with recycled materials. He has published poetry and essays in diverse online and printed publications. He is the author of *Canto de pájaro o invocación a la palabra* (Buffon Press, 1984); *Escritos Mitimaes: hacia una poética andina postmoderna* (Barro Editorial Press, 1998); *Hawansuyo Ukun words* (Hawansuyo/Pakarina Ediciones, 2015); and *Revelación en la senda del manzandar: Homenaje a Juan Ramírez Ruiz* (Hawansuyo/ Pakarina, 2016). He is currently working on *Llapan llaqtan: narrativa y poesía trilingüe/ Llapan llaqtan: trilingual poetry*. His trans-Andean projects can be found in the virtual ayllu: [Hawansuyo Peruvian Bookstore](http://Hawansuyo Peruvian Bookstore), [Churoncalla.com](http://Churoncalla.com), y [Hawansuyo.com](http://Hawansuyo.com)

*Tamyawan Shamukupani* is the first collection of Quichua poetry by Yana Lucy Lema. Her poetry is very intimate, sensual and connected to her Otavalo heritage and the cosmos in general. She does that with few strokes, as if she was talking to someone, usually a loved one. Hers is a new voice in Quichua poetry, going beyond the usual rhetoric. The translations were done relying primarily in the original Quichua version, and might be slightly different than the authors translation into Spanish. We have also segmented the stanzas to allow the nonlinear symbolic flow between the lines. If the translator is familiar with the native language this is the right way to approach a text, so the nuances are not lost in the intermediate language. Thanks to Robert Roth, director of And Then Magazine, for Reading and suggesting some fine tuning for this wonderful body of work. (by Fredy A. Roncalla)

# *Tamyawan Shamukupani*

## **Living with the rain**

**1**

chay lusiru kimirimukunmi  
kintikunapash ña pawanakunmi

pakchata yallik ñuka shunkupash wakakunmi

chay kanpa shimiwan allpata mutyachishami

wayrapash ñukanchikwan pukllachun sakishunlla

-ama manchaychu

nachu urkukunapash kuyarinmi

nishpami ñuka mamaka- nin

**1**

Morning star comes by  
and the hummingbirds fly around

my heart roars louder than a waterfall

I will water the earth with your lips and mouth

It is time for the wind to play with us

do not fear:

even the mountains  
love each other

my mother said

2

ñawpa mamakunapa makikunapi  
katik wawakunapa makikunapi

uchilla ninakunashinami  
puka mullukunapash

cuentakunapash punchalla rikurinakun

inti llukshinkakaman  
inti washakunkakaman tushunka

shunku kushikuchun  
kutinpash pukuchiyta ushankapak

2

At the hands of the elder women  
and the young ones that follow them

shine golden mullu shells\*  
like small suns

the silver beads will dance  
until sunrise

and sunset

bringing happiness to our hearts  
so they flower again

\*Mullu is the quichua name for the spondylous shell. This shell is used in many rituals in the Andes and had an exchange value close to money in pre-Hispanic times. This shell is widely used in the manufacture of beads in the coastal region of Ecuador and Peru. This poem refers to the importance of handcrafting in quichua communities.

3

kunanka ñukawan  
ñuka ñawi rikuypi tiyakuy

kanpa maki awayta rikukusha  
nachu hawapachapi nina puchkakunapash watarinakun

nachu paykunallatak uchilla ninakunata  
ñukanchik shunkukunatapash watachishka

3

Stay now  
looking at me in the eyes

I will watch your hands  
as if they were weaving threads of fire at Hawa Pacha\*

those hands  
perhaps the only ones tying small suns\*\*

for our hearts contentment

\* Hawa pacha is the celestial dimension in Quichua cosmology.

\*\*This passage refers to the capacity to tie a celestial body –usually with a woolen cord- to benefit the realm of this world

4

kayna puncha  
kayna chishi

kayna tuta

ñuka shuti kanpa shimipi  
kanpa llakta ñuka ñawipi

ñawpa ñawpa punchakuna purishkami kashka

ñukanchik makikunapi hapirishka munay  
ñukanchik llaktakunamanta makanakushpa puriwan paktay

chay puncha  
chay chishi

chay tuta

kanpa shuti ñuka shimipi  
ñuka llakta kanpa ñawipi

ñawpa punchakuna purishkami kashka

chiri wayra chawpipi ukllariy  
aycha ukupi chay tukuy makanakuykunawan paktay

kunan puncha  
kunan chishi

kunan tuta charichishkaka

ñuka llaktapi kan chulunlla  
kanpa llaktapi ñuka chulunlla

kunan kunan purishkami kan

uchilla ninakunalla tutapi  
shuk makanakuykunapash ñukanchikta tarimushkami

kanta ñukata ñukanchikpa chikan llaktakunapi

4

Yesterday  
last evening

the night holding

my name in your lips  
and your land in my eyes

come from very old times

like a certain tenderness left in our hands  
by the struggles for our people

the other day  
and evening

that night holding

your name in my lips  
and my land in your eyes

are a more recent story

just like a hug in the middle of the cold wind  
blowing with the struggles we carry in our blood

today  
this evening

and the night still holding

your silence in my land  
and your land in my silence

are even a smaller tale

like a night with small suns  
guiding our future struggles

for our lands

**5**

kan ñuka suni akchata llampuchishkata yarinirakmi

ñuka rinripi

kanpa uchilla wankarpash wakakunrakmi

**5**

I have your hand going through my hair

and in my ears

the sound of your small drum



6

suni akchayuk  
raymi kushma churakushka mamakulla

chishikunapi kanta shuyanchik

—ñanta mañachiychik yallipasha— nishpa purimuy  
—yallipay mama yallipay— nishpa chaskishunmi

wawakunaman kushikuyta  
kanpa mishki shimita apamupay

imashina sisakuna pukuchun tamyata shuyanchik

shina kantapash shuyanchikmi

shamuy sumak tullpukunayuk

kawsak rumikunayuk mamakulla

6

Venerable old lady  
long haired lady

Dressed like you are going to the town celebration:

we wait for you  
as the evening sets

just come and say “I am passing by your place”  
we will answer “just pass, madam, just pass”

bring your sweet words and happiness  
for the infants

we wait for you as the flowers long for the rain

just come, old lady

with your beautiful colors  
and your stones full of memories

## MORE ABOUT YANA LUCI LEMA

- *Festival de Poesía de Medellín*, Colombia 2010:  
[https://www.festivaldepoesiademedellin.org/es/Revista/ultimas\\_ediciones/86\\_87/lema.html](https://www.festivaldepoesiademedellin.org/es/Revista/ultimas_ediciones/86_87/lema.html)
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<https://youtu.be/DXABzZYSnSA>