

Vuelvo

Lyrics by Patricio Manns

Music by Horacio Salinas

(Translation by Ramona Wadi)

I return
With ashes, with wounds
With this haughty impatience
With an honest conscience,
With anger, with suspicion,
With an active certainty,
I set foot in my country

I set foot in my country
And instead of lamenting,
Dispersing my sorrow to the wind,
I open my eye and gaze
And restrain my discontent

I return beautiful, I return tender
I return with persistent waiting,
I return with my armor,
With my sword, my sleepless nights,
My severed distress,
My omen, my sweetness,
I return with my profound love
I return in soul
And I return in flesh
To discover the unblemished homeland
At the end of the last kiss
I return finally without humiliating myself
Without asking forgiveness or oblivion
Man is never conquered,
His defeat is always brief
An enticement that inflames
The vocation of war,
As the nation that exiles
And the nation that welcomes
Will tell him that he lives
Sorrows of the entire land
I return beautiful, I return tender
I return with persistent waiting
I return with my armor,
With my sword, my sleepless nights
My severed distress,
My omen, my sweetness
I return with my profound love
I return in soul
And I return in flesh
To discover the unblemished homeland
At the end of the last kiss.

Horacio Salinas, the internationally renowned musician, composer and musical director of the beloved Chilean ensemble Inti-Illimani, taught a class for the Center for Latin American Studies during fall 2011. While at Berkeley, Salinas also gave a recital for CLAS on November 1, 2011.

(Photo by Jim Block.)

