

## Hypertext, Daw

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**Hypertext, Daw**  
by Eileen Tabios

*Ngani karon gihandom ko si Grasya*  
Even now I remember Grace  
as a sepia stain collapsing my ancestors' photos  
to reflect faces honestly  
without uncertainty of environment, thus, context

*Sampagita nga mosalingsing sa kinatas-an*  
And the jasmine climbs the trellis  
while Marta raises her rayon skirt  
to stamp out the flamenco before she dies

*Winter liwan rugya*                      *Ginpapa ko ang luy-a*  
It's winter again                      I crushed the ginger  
for the soup of carrots and orange rinds  
I shall spoon for you between smooches  
after your limp up Madison Avenue

*Daytoy iti lubong nga mangar-aracop*  
This is the earth that holds us  
where you grabbed for "rough sex" the intersection  
I share with Courbet's "Origin of the World"  
I nodded for I wanted more sugar torched  
after you taught me "moonshine" is not liquid but light

*Mangege ti tak-tarak-tak ti sangaribo a cabalyo*  
I hear the thunder of a hundred hooves  
as pictures fade to compromise the sounds of text  
there is no <ars poetica> but <arse poetica>

Never mind                      *pabay-e lang*  
with good health                      *mayad lawas*  
you can eventually go home to Antique

Footnotes: In the title, "daw" is a Tagalog word used as emphasis to emphasize the point previously made; the emphasis is often made in a tongue-in-cheek, joking, or ironic manner. In stanzas 1-5, the first lines of Filipino words are followed by their English translations; in the last stanza English precedes the non-English phrases. The Filipino dialects used are: Cebuano in Stanzas 1 and 2; Kinaray-a in Stanzas 3 and 6; Ilocano in Stanzas 4 and 5.