

As I have stated before, I am not a professional writer. However, I felt a necessity to pass on to others some of the things he shared with me. He not only lived during an exciting time in Mexico's history but played a part in some of those historic events. He was always proud to have been one of those who answered "El General's" call to arms and said, "¡Vamonos con Pancho Villa!"

LA GOLONDRINA

In the days of old it was a custom to dismiss someone with the old Spanish ballad, *La Golondrina* (The Swallow). And with this ballad I too dismiss myself from you who took the time to read these stories.

The composer of *La Golondrina* is believed to have been Baudilio-Abu Abdulah, the last Moorish king of Spain, from 1482 to 1492. After Baudilio was defeated by Ferdinand and Isabela, he fled to the mountains and from the summit of one of the hills, he looked back at the city of Granada and wept.

His mother, Ayesha, who accompanied him, reprimanded him saying, "You weep like a woman for what you could not defend as a man."

Baudilio eventually fled to Morocco. It is said that one day, within the sierras, he saw a tiny swallow, lost and in anguish, looking for shelter. He invited her to place her nest near his couch for the song says, "I too am in this region lost and without wings to fly. My heart reaches out to yours O tender and beloved swallow." I will hear your song; I will remember my native land, and weep."

LA GOLONDRINA

A donde irá, velóz y fatigada,
La golondrina que de aqui se vá.
O si en el viento gemira angustiada,
Buscando abrigo y no lo encontrara.

Junto a mi lecho le pondré su nido,
En donde pueda la estación pasar.
Tambien yo estoy en la region perdido,
O' cielo santo y sin poder volar.

Dejé tambien, mi patria idolatrada,
Esa manción que me miró nacer.
Mi vida es hoy errante y angustiada,
Y yo no puedo a mi manción volver.

Ave querida, amada y peregrina,
Mi corazon al tuyo estrechare.
Oire tu canto o' tierna golondrina,
Recordare mi patria y lloraré.

Fifty-eight year-old Samuel Leo Gonzales was born and raised in Tucuncari, New Mexico where he attended public schools. Afterwards, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Korea. Gonzales received a B.S. degree from the University of Albuquerque from where he graduated in 1977.

Mr. Gonzales is presently a Probation Counselor with the District Attorney's office in Albuquerque.



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