

*La Oración del Alacrán/The Prayer of the Scorpion*  
(for Carlos Castañeda)

I am a hinge  
between the doors

of here & now  
the prophet raging  
at the desert's edge

the priest  
in the temple of dreams

the architect of labyrinths  
in the house of night

a vision of hell  
in the holy memory of your flesh

the lightning in the storm  
the dark metaphor of your life

the caller of thirsty souls  
in hard habitations

the sting of a secret kiss

the impending apocalypse of forever after