REBIRTH OF NEW RICAN by Ed Morales

For Eddie Figueroa

As soon as I found you, gasping for breath in the projects on 114th and Madison
I knew you were passing a living tradition on to me
"We are a deep, dark story " you groaned. "Our people are a secret unto themselves."
Eddie they might think you’re crazy but you taught me
What the New Rican destiny will be
Five centuries of miscegenation finally set free
The blood of time-traveling espiritistas and Yoruban existencialistas
Los moros que no se han matado and the Borinquen aesthetic comiendo bacalao.
Young Lord agitator, Central Park acid dealer,
Joseph Campbell revisionist, phony plebiscite exorcist!
You held on so tightly to our b-jef in magic, in simultaneous eternal time,
in botánica awareness
You made me believe that our culture is the future, that our thoughts don’t proceed in straight lines
That we can take back control of our lives, that we are no longer colonial subjects
That to be Puerto Rican is to be fukin crazy .
That the weapon that ‘s going to win is right here.
The revolution is right -here, man.
The groove that’s in our hearts
Con esta situación, culturally unique -
Tu sabes la cuestión de usar las dos lenguas
New and revolutionary communication
Comes into being .
Porque only a multiculture pueblo can understand
El adencro y the outside of the dynamic
Culturally, we possess ritmos y sueños que no se
Pueden sacar de our essences .
They are reflected in our speech and-our manner
No matter what language or banner we choose .
Freeing us from being aquí o alla, here, there; everywhere
Mixed race is the place .
It feels good to be neither
It’s a relief to deny racial purity
We’re amused as America slowly comes to see
The beauty of negritude and the Native American attitude
We’ve been living it day-to-day since 1492