

A CHANT FOR MY SISTERS

it's all right to be woman  
dishwasher, big belly, sore back  
swollen ankles

it's all right to be woman  
the listener the waiter/sailor's wife  
patient  
by the seashore/looking out

it's all right to be woman  
coquette

seductress

conniving bitch

it's all right to be woman  
a chant for my sisters  
strong before me  
harriet sojourner emma and rosa  
harriet sojourner emma and rosa

a chant for my sisters  
rifke sorel rochel & mary  
yema ya yemaya yemaya yemaya  
yemaya yemaya yemaya yemaya  
oshun.....  
oshun.....

a chant for my sisters  
strong in battle  
la bandita killing generals with zapata  
maria in mexico and mississippi

haydee with the rest at moncada  
a chant for my sisters  
dead before i could meet them  
victorious  
in havana  
and dien bien phu

Marilyn Lowen Fletcher