

©Linda Allen 1986

We came by night to the river Miguel, Amalita and me Miguel was just six, Amalita, three years Our one chance for life was to flee Their father, a brave and a good man Was killed when our village was bombed What cowards would kill a good man as he sleeps He never did anyone harm

But the bombs never ask any questions There's no soul within the big guns And the soldiers push buttons, they laugh and they joke And they never see what they have done

The soldiers would come to our village To recruit our young men for their wars They'd tempt them with lies, but we've grown much too wise So the devils would take them by force Now they say that our town is unfriendly But what do we know of these things? We'd plant and we'd harvest, when harvest we could We'd hope, and we'd pray, and we'd sing

But the bombs never ask any questions There's no soul within the gig guns And many would die with fear in their eyes And the women and children would run

So I stand by the river, my children and I Behind me, my dreams, and the mountains and sky And the water is deep, and I wish I could fly like a bird

The water is cold, and so muddy Amalita holds tight to my back Miguel, he grows tired, O God, give him strength Oh, why is the river so black? They say there is one who will help us With the last of my strength, I will scream Now strong arms surround me, I lie on the shore And I wonder if this is a dream

And the bombs never ask any questions There's no soul within the big guns The money is spent, and the laws freely bent And the generals won't see what they've done

With kind words he carries the children I follow along to his home He sees they are fed, and put safely to bed And he says I need not feel alone

For here there are those who would help us An underground railroad of friends For borders are made out of greed and of fear And God knows the hatred must end God knows the hatred must end