

Our Lady of the World without a Voice

Mother, Providence made me encounter
A statue in which you are perfect and beautiful
But your son is without a head. I was advised
To remove it from the sight of the public.
They even had the bad taste to suggest that
I had a head sculpted for the child.
They did not understand that in this statue
I received a perfect symbol of Our Lady of the world
Without a voice...

Is this not exactly how I have met,
Each time, your son and our brother, Christ?

When I see the children of my people,
Atrophied, with their swollen stomachs,
Enormous heads that are very often empty,
Withdrawn, as though they were absent,
I meet Christ!

I will keep the statue with the deformed child,
As in life, as in our world, where
Selfishness generates monsters,
Where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer,
Where torture and arbitrary arrests continue,
Where violence on all sides wounds justice
And prevents peace, where man continues
To behead man.

Helder Camara