Those Before Us Within Us



1.
They pass through our lives
not knowing what they leave behind.
A father’s word,
a mother’s patience,
a teacher’s sentence —
and something starts within us.

An encouraging glance,
a quiet demand,
a silence, too, at times,
that teaches us to seek.

We believe we walk alone,
yet our steps learned elsewhere.
We believe we speak alone,
yet our words have roots,
older than ourselves.

Chorus
They remain within us,
not as shadows,
but as living seeds.
What we allow to grow
often comes from them,
even if we do not know.

2.
The voice that taught me
to love the books
still echoes when I write.

The voice that taught me
to move from tongue to tongue
still breathes in my bridges of words.

I thought I was inventing my path —
but I was only extending theirs.

And then Sara,
My daughter.
In her turn, she moves
toward those who come after.
She opens the world
in the language she shares.
She passes on, without knowing,
what she herself received.

Chorus
They remain within us,
and we continue their gesture.
We do not end alone:
Something of us
already begins in others.

Bridge
So life goes on:
like a flame that bends
to light another one.
Nothing truly fades,
when it has been given.

Final
We are made of those before,
and carriers of those after.
What we become
is a silent answer
to what they offered us.

And perhaps, one day,
someone will say of us:
"He taught me, without knowing."

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