

ENGLISH - Scene: The herbs

By Miriam Álvarez

(The space is full of stones, not too big, just enough to be seen.)

Two women in their 60s are walking, there is room to do so but it is difficult.)

Catalina: And there's so many stones around here! Will there be any herbs for curing?

Feliciano: Where are they going to grow? But let's look, he who seeks finds.

Catalina: They say that you have to boil the roots and drink the water, the juice that comes out. Roots can be used for many things, for good and bad things too. Near my house in the countryside, there was a man who they said was a witch, nobody knew how old he was, he never died.

Feliciano: In my neighbourhood, there was also a woman who was said to be a witch because she never died. When we arrived in the neighbourhood, she was already old and always in a good mood, always happy, lucid. My mother was afraid of her. I wasn't. For me she was just old.

Catalina: Maybe when we are old, they will be afraid of us too.

Feliciano: Well, they're afraid of me now.

Catalina: That's just talk. Let's keep looking for roots that we have to bring for the ceremony. We have to find colapiche, mata negra or jarilla because we are going to need it.

Feliciano: Do you think that Don Martiniano can be cured?

Catalina: What can I tell you? He's old and unwell. The machi [medium], did you see, said when she was here, that he was a longko [leader] chosen by the newenes [spirits].

Feliciano: I think he doesn't want to leave yet, he's not ready to leave this earth yet.

A man is heard in voice-over:

They're going to take me away from here only when I'm dead, like I told you. We have no land! Yes, yes, we don't have any land, nothing, and I'm protesting. When they give us something, we will have something. And if they don't give us anything, we will be left with nothing? I think we are all going through the thing. That is what I am telling you today and I'll tell you forever, until I die. And I am going to fight for the land until I die. Just as they have evicted me, just as they have evicted you, just as they have taken our land and taken our animals, I am going to continue protesting. I am standing firm. With you I assert myself. With you. And if it weren't for you, I would not be here.