

## Author's note on "Somewhere in La Mancha"

Someone said that an acceptance of one's past, even (and especially) the most painful of it, will be the key to unlocking a richer present. My poetry is an act of presence always fed on the past, albeit sometimes the most immediate past. This piece was an homage to all the places I'd been fortunate to have grown up and lived in, while recognizing what the textures, the tastes and echoes of place leave indelibly in us. Places, in turn, that have been marked by their writers. It was also a reflection on the time and place that I gave myself finally and wholly to being a writer.