

## GENESIS

by

*Rosalinda Pineda-Ofreneo*

The women shall rise from the ground  
Like white lilies budding in the burning night  
To bloom for the morning after.

They shall break the chains  
Fashioned from lies made of sweet bread  
To weld a world of honest men.

They shall use their fists  
Long held back in patient numbness  
To strike at haloed idols  
carved out of human flesh.

The women shall rise from the ground  
And they shall kiss the sky.

**Poet's Note:**

*"Genesis" was the first ever poem I wrote at age 18, when I was jolted out of my adolescent complacency by the maelstrom now known as the First Quarter Storm. It also signaled my awakening to feminism, which has constantly served as my inspiration in my long, sometimes painful but always fruitful journey as an academic and as an advocate. I am privileged to have a safe, hospitable, and stimulating home in the Department of Women and Development Studies, where many feminist paths converge under a "welcome" sign.*