

## Poetics of Love in Octavio Paz's "Vigilias" (By Dante Salgado)

In the west, the idea of tradition is of great importance; to reconstruct is to reinvent, hence the importance of questions concerning the origin and destiny of the human being that in this perspective give a particular world outlook. In every effort to answer, the word becomes the instrument to name the world: to recreate it. The *sense* of writing is Being and its mortal condition, but also, its endeavors to transcend.

Octavio Paz followed the tradition. He wrote possessed by the certainty that the writer's activity was not to discover novelties, rather, to propose new visions of the known.

The need to write about love is explained in Octavio Paz by a clear conscience of following a tradition and as an answer, a non conformity, a criticism to his time.

In "Vigilias" we see his first musings concerning love. If modern morals, with its idea of sin, produced a rationalist society, we attend a new restating of love's vision. Literature must be, as in antiquity, the geography of amazement.

Not only does Octavio Paz outline in "Vigilias" the themes he developed in later essays and poems: love, eroticism, women; but he also prefigures the moralism by which he will be known in his essaying and that would later become a trademark of his writing. "Vigilias" is the seed of key texts in Paz's writing such as "Carta de creencia" and *La llama doble*.