

# ODI GONZALES

*Translated from Spanish by Lynn Levin*

## ***Descent of the Virgin to the Sunturwasi/An Allegory*** **Marcos Sapaka**

To paint the threshers of corn  
and those who sell provisions at the Bread Entrance  
was my greatest wish

I painted  
the pregnant Virgin Mary  
and they accused me of being a spellcaster

*some paintings are recreations  
of apocryphal gospels*

In my fresco  
*The Divine Shepherdess of Souls*  
—roundly condemned by the Church—  
the Virgin of the Mercies, her breasts as full as those of a wet nurse  
gives one breast  
to the Son of God, her child, and the other  
to Saint Peter Nolasco, patron  
of the Order of the Mercedarians

*this canvas  
is profane and from the hand  
of an indigenous painter*

In *The Fallen Christ*  
*after the Flagellation*  
there are no embellishments  
no cherubs in flight

a loincloth  
scarcely  
covers the genitals  
of the King of Kings

It's a copy  
of an engraving by Wierix or van Tulden

*This artist often  
incorporates native flora and fauna  
in his work*

I produced many other  
canvases in my studios:

*The Song of Songs, now in a private collection  
The Donkey's Communion, whereabouts unknown  
St. Francis Tumbling down Naked  
in the Snow*

three times  
did others repaint and cover that scene  
with foliage that was foreign to me

*Sunturwasi.* The *sunturwasi* was an Inca military building used for storing arms and military emblems. The Virgin Mary was said to have visited the site of the *sunturwasi* of Cusco. Later the Spaniards erected a church, El Triunfo, over the remains of the original Inca building. The *sunturwasi* was the site of an unsuccessful revolt led by the Inca Manco in 1536.

*Marcos Sapaka* (sometimes spelled Sapaca or Zapata), active during the eighteenth century, painted some 200 religious works. His work often mixes the sacred and the profane.

*The Bread Entrance* to the city of Cusco was built by the Spaniards on top of the residence of the Inca Pachacutec.

*Anton Wierix II* was a sixteenth-century Flemish engraver known for his religious subjects. *Theodoor van Tulden* (or Thulden) was a seventeenth-century Flemish painter and engraver.

***Saint Isidore the Farmer***  
**Cathedral of Cusco**  
**Basilio Santa Cruz Pumaqallo**

The morning star  
begins to brighten in the firmament  
like the coffin of an innocent child

it shines

forming perhaps a piece  
of the constellation of the plow

*a great serenity reigns  
a motionless calm*

As scarlet birds wing past  
the parrots predict rain  
and hailstorms

could this be the antechamber of heaven?

Isidore the farmer  
is not at his post, and the owner  
of these parcels of land  
planted with coca  
discovers that though Isidore is absent  
the angels are plowing his fields

(the background

dissolves into  
an arbor and  
a far-off field of boulders)

*A few things more,  
as the oxen traveled back and forth  
driving furrows into the rocky ground  
I developed the greatest of my misfortunes, old  
weary laborer that I am:*

*now I have  
stones forming in my kidneys  
and my hoe and harrow, the yoke for my beasts  
must find their final rest*

*on the plot of St. Eligius  
patron of blacksmiths*

*Basilio Santa Cruz Pumaqallo* was a master of the School of Cusco. He painted *Saint Isidore the Farmer* from 1691-1693.