My Nightly Reverie

By Alexa Seda
Characters

ELIAN- a young man in his 20’s living on the southside of Chicago who managing multiple jobs, taking care of his family, and trying to fit in the world

YUIZA- a magical ancestor male or women who is aged an is Elian’s guide and has been watching over him

NIKE- A homeless man/women any age on the train who is ELIAN’s own voice of reason

Extras-- can be anyone to fill the scene--- Have fun with it, after all it is a dream
SCENE 1

(In a quiet room the only sound is a humidifier releasing the smell of eucalyptus and ELIAN silently praying to himself at the edge of his bed. His knees are on the ground and his forehead is pressed against the mattress. A glimmer of light beams on the nape of his neck from the street light coming from the cracks in his window)

ELIAN

(Receding into himself, and in a quite melancholic whisper) Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre; venga a nosotros tu reino; Ughh I can’t remember the rest of it, dammit, shoot I got this is in english. Our father who art in heaven... you know what, forget it. **Gets up from the floor in a flustered manner, pacing back and forth** GOD I know I don’t thank you enough and I don’t pray, like ever. But I really need you right now. I’m strugglin. I don’t know what I’m doing or where I’m headed. All my friends got their dream job already or got a fricking million followers on Instagram. And what do I got? Student loan debt, I aint even popular like that either. **Looking up to the ceiling** I just feel like a nobody who always gotta be doing something for somebody, if you know what I mean...

(ELIAN feeling pissed off that he couldn’t say a simple prayer, finally lays down and takes a deep breath of the mist. His nose is stuffy from not wanting to let the tears roll down his face. He lays there and finally closes his eyes. In the darkest corner of his room is a looming figure amused by ELIAN’s prayer waiting for him to fully be asleep)

YUIZA

(To self in amusement) Haha now poor poor little ELIAN does not know that he is descended from ROYALTY, that he came from the mountains of Utuado and pa que el lo sepa hails from the isla of Boriken y nuestra gente fought valiantly against the Spanish Conquistadors. Mira Mira no one from my lineage is not going to proclaim that HE floating to ELIAN and tracing their handing on his jawline is a NOBODY.

(Floating away from ELIAN, YUIZA goes to the humidifier and looks at with wonder and with an epiphany concocts a plan to get ELIAN to see his true potential)
In a whimsical tune singing takes potions out of pocket and places some magical drops of liquid into the humidifier while dancing

Ah 1 and a 2, tres, quatro, cinco
YUIZA knows what to do
Espiritus help my kin
We’re gonna teach him
What it’s like to win

Wepa Pa Que tu los Sepas
We’re the bravest, the strongest
Ah 1 and a 2, 3, 4, 5
Wepa Pa Que tu los Sepas
We’re the bravest, the strongest

ELIAN

(talking in his sleep while tossing and turning) Mmmm, I don’t know...hmmm (turns on his back and begins snoring with his mouth open)

YUIZA

(floats over ELIAN and places a drop in his mouth) Ooops, a drop for you. Now sleep my child, for you are going on a journey. (almost as if blessing him) May your dream guide and show you the Luz that’s inside....

SCENE 2

(ELIAN finds himself on the Chicago subway red line and he looks down at his hands and feet, for some reason he feels like he’s in a dream but the hard tile underneath his feet feel so real, besides he can read the train stops clearly and he knows he’s on the redline headed towards downtown. In a couple rows ahead of him is 1 person, who slowly turns their heads and walks towards him)

NIKE

(Looking like a beggar, smell of liquor on the breath and slurring) Now whatcha doing, here now on dis train child?
ELIAN

(Looking around) Uhh what do you mean?

NIKE

I said whatcha doing here, now on dis train child? Ansa me

ELIAN

(Looking at NIKE confused) Well uhhh, I’m on this train because...because I , I ...why do you wanna know anyway?

NIKE

Cuz boy it’s my buziiness that you is on dis train, ya hear?

ELIAN

I don’t understand how it’s “your” business that I am on this train.

NIKE

Dontchu sass me boy , this right hurr is my train whetha you likes it or not. Whateva the hell is going on dis right hurr damn (train jerks as it hits a bump and NIKE freezes for a split sec and sobers up) TRAIN, is my business? Now can you answer the question. Why are you on this train?

ELIAN

Well you see... Umm what’s your name?... (nike answers him) NIKE ... honestly I don’t know why I am on this train , last thing I remember was I was praying and I thought I heard someone singing in my room but I was too afraid to open my eyes and now I’m here.

NIKE
(still with slight intoxication) and stumbling  I See ... tell me what was you praying about?

ELIAN

(feeling a bit silly) Sooooo I was praying to God. Do you believe in God? Honestly I do and I don’t. So much stuff going on in the world and the big man upstairs, well i’m not liking the cards he dealt me.

NIKE

And?

ELIAN

(slightly annoyed) With the cards he dealt me I feel like a nobody who always gotta do something for somebody!

NIKE

(finding humor in by ELIAN’s frustration) Hahhahaa Oh ELIAN, you are GOD, hahaha, dis son of GUN goofy I tell yah (hooting and hollering on the subway)

ELIAN

How do you know my name? What do you mean I’m GOD??????

NIKE

Take a lookeey around? Dis is your universe, I is a reflection of you (points finger at ELIAN) I is your light, your voice of reason. Every-ting you need answered lies within you (stumbling and sing)

I am your light tunnn tunnn tunnn
I am your reflection oooooo weee!
The answers to your prayers
Aren’t for the naysayers
I am your light
I am your reflection badibopeepdadadibobeep....

ELIAN

(Elian even more confused) What the hell am I dreaming or is this for real?

NIKE

Only you can tell me?

ELIAN

What happened to being my voice of reason?

NIKE

Aightt, aightt, so given dat I’m a reflection of you . I guess you know dat I know dat you know dat I know the answers to ya prayers.

ELIAN

And??

NIKE

Do you remembta dat favorite poem of yours, the one you have hanging on the wall?

ELIAN

Uhh , I got many??

NIKE

Damn, da one dat says “Our deepest fears are that we are (grabbing on to ELIAN’s shirt and looking him straight in the eyes) Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

ELIAN
Damn do you know the whole thing?

NIKE

No you know the whole ting

ELIAN

So what are you trying to tell me? Or better yet what I am trying to tell myself?

NIKE

(Matter of factly) Point 1. You ain’t nobody always doing something for somebody, You is everyone. Point 2. Get outside yaself, you got all da strength you need and been afraid to use it, you not on an island all by yaself. Point Number 3. Bruh let that light shine instead of complaining you ain’t like the cards GOD dealt you

ELIAN

(Standing up proudly and like he had a revelation) Righhhht! That’s why I love that poem. I’m not nobody doing something for somebody. I’m ELIAN descendent of the bravest, the strongest people on earth. I can move mountains with my thoughts! My fire is so bright I can illuminate a dark room to the fullest…. (to self) I had the tools this whole time

Scene 3

YUIZA

(looking over ELIAN while he’s asleep, adoring the smile on his face) Mira Mira, I think my nino finally understands that he has all the tools he needs to be the bravest and the strongest.