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***Mosaico feminista
Tejiendo conocimiento a través de las
culturas
Feminist Mosaic
Weaving Knowledge Across Cultures***

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bell hooks in our hearts

In December 2021, I literally read and graded the wonderful papers that gave life to this anthology with a heavy but totally open heart while grieving our beloved feminist ancestor and teacher bell hooks. I felt the same way when Gloria Anzaldúa died in 2004.

I wrote: But what a blessing is to have her words now caressing my soul as I cry. Now that she transcended, now that she is no longer in this material world,
her wisdom continues to take care of me:

Love invites us to grieve for the dead as ritual of mourning and as celebration.

As we speak our hearts in mourning we share our intimate knowledge of the dead, of who they were and how they lived. We honor their presence by naming the legacies they leave us.

We need not contain grief when we use it as a means to intensify our love for the dead and dying, for those who remain alive.

–bell hooks, *All about love* (2000)

You will be alive forever in our hearts to remind us always
that we must transform love, from a noun to a verb,
from written text to praxis,
just the way you taught us to embrace life.

Your invaluable contributions to feminism
and your inspirational presence and light
will survive the test of time.

I bow down to your remarkable spirit with deep gratitude
and respect.
Rest in the power and light of your love and compassion, bell hooks,
mi hermana negra,
my beloved sister in arms ~

Gloria González-López

December 17, 2021

