

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Dia de Los Muertos is a Mexican holiday that celebrates the life of a deceased friend or family member. Every 1st and 2nd of November, Latin families pay respect to their departed loved ones by building and decorating an altar that commemorates the life and joys of the deceased. They also exchange satirical poems that are better known as “Calaveras” or “Skull Poems.” These poems are meant to make the topic of death more lighthearted and humorous. They do this by poking fun at death and suggesting the ways in which a person may die even though they’re still alive. For example, if Hugo’s favorite food is cake, a friend or loved one may write him a calavera that reads like this:

The time had finally come
Don Hugo was taken away
The skinny one named “Death” just had her way

A piece of cake went down his throat
That made him sound just like a goat
There was no milk at hand you see
So blue and purple he came to be

Don’t cry Hugo, dear
For in our hearts we will still hear
The goatly sounds that you did make
And in your name, we’ll have some cake.

Vocabulary:

1. deceased: Dead.
2. commemorate: Recall and show respect in a ceremony.
3. satirical: The use of humor to expose peoples’ silliness.



