



Image from Brookings Institution

William Nunez

Cuban

I am Cuban  
Although I will never say it  
And you will never know  
Appropriations that lead to advancement

One looks the other way  
I turn the opposite cheek  
While my people just love  
My head bows in shame

I will eat their / my food  
Snicker as others criticize them  
In the oak-paneled room of the Princeton Club  
I light a cigar made by my descendants

Foreigner is what I have been called  
Citizen is what I am

The changing times do not preclude  
Gamers that are always left to chance

Softly laughing, silently praying  
That progress does not jump off  
Distortion rings false from all sides  
As reason and empathy subside

Is it easy to sit in my lounge chair  
To be judgmental as others judge me?  
Rather than watch the skies and exclaim  
I am Cuban

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William Nunez's poems have appeared in such publications as *Aldebaran*, *Poetry Salzburg*, *Narrative*, *Exit 33*, and *Gravesiana*. Also a television and film director, he has recently completed a feature film, *The Laureate*, based on the life of the British poet, novelist, memoirist, and literary scholar Robert Graves and his turbulent relationship with the American poet Laura Riding. (The film is now available and can be streamed on Amazon Prime; an interview with Mr. Nunez can be seen on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7dKPWYGzoo>.)