

## Sand and Brick

*“It consoles me to think that I have placed my grain of sand to construct a more just and enlightened world for you”—Oscar Lopez Rivera, letter to his granddaughter Karina.*

There are many who place  
their grains of sand upon the beach  
of a more just and enlightened  
world. We welcome each of them,  
since each grain of sand  
is precious.

And yet we must then  
acknowledge that there  
are others, more precious still,  
who, during their time on this earth,  
offer us bricks that we may use  
as we construct our house  
of the revolution.

For these, relative few,  
we reserve a special  
“thank-you.”

And now allow me to add—  
so this tribute to Oscar  
can feel complete—that some  
bricks in the walls  
of our house are bigger  
than others.

Some bricks  
are bigger  
than others.

Steve Bloom  
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