



March 9, 2008

Today I look back
and realize I've been given much.
At birth, a name and a voice.
As a child, knowledge and a path.
As a youngster, opportunities and a dream.
As a man, courage to choose and a story to tell.
Neither blind greed nor soldiers with guns
shackled my desire to explore the world.
Neither ignorance nor brutality
scared me away from becoming
a versatile, flexible, creative thinker.

When I left my home in Argentina,
dear friends in Europe and the United States
gave me shelter, work, clothes
and opened doors for me.
They helped me believe
I could go "beyond personal best."

On my 50th birthday, I declare
my eternal indebtedness to my parents and family,
my eternal love to my wife,
and my eternal gratitude to my friends.

In the future, I wish to share
my perspective that the exploration never ends,
that our worldview must continuously expand
and that our thinking skills must always improve.

I'm looking for travel companions and a bigger stage,
so the voice, the knowledge, the path and the dream
I was given
can inspire others
who might need help
or a friend.

Carlos Salum