

The Bringer of Gratitude's Rose

It is not red
with the romance a rose conveys
a bloom carved
with weight of remembrance and shadow
edges dipped in light

He holds it low
his arm wrapped in the prick of the thorns
a delicate gift
a debt repaid
what does it mean to be grateful

He is a messenger of forgiveness
carrying a petaled blossom
five starred faces each looking to the sun
yet walking away from it
an entity bringing gratitude
bringing faith
bringing flowers
over the hills

-Ashley Close



Gino Castellanos
The Bringer of Gratitude, 2022