



A New Directions Book

Ernesto Cardenal

Pluriverse: New and Selected Poems

Edited by Jonathan Cohen

With a [Foreword by Lawrence Ferlinghetti](#)

and translations by Jonathan Cohen, Mireya Jaimes-Freyre, John Lyons, Thomas Merton, Robert Pring-Mill, Kenneth Rexroth, and Donald D. Walsh

The most extensive compilation of poems in English by Latin America's legendary poet-activist, Ernesto Cardenal.

"The outstanding socially committed poet of his generation in Spanish America."—*The Times Literary Supplement* (London)

"Ernesto Cardenal is a major epic-historical poet, in the grand lineage of Central American prophet Rubén Darío."—Allen Ginsberg

"The wondrous nature of timespace has truly inspired this Nicaraguan to epic heights of poetic-scientific song."—*The Texas Observer* (Austin)

Praise for *Pluriverse*: "**Clear, impassioned, brilliant. Beautiful.**" (*Los Angeles Times*); "**absorbing and sweeping narrative verse**" (*Booklist*); "**wonderful and challenging**" (*Englewood Review of Books*); "**essential for poetry and Latin American collections**" (*Library Journal*).

Pluriverse: New and Selected Poems charts the life-work of the celebrated poet, Ernesto Cardenal—"one of the world's major poets" (*Choice*) and "the preeminent poet of Central America today" (*Library Journal*). Follow Cardenal's poetic development across six decades, from the early *exteriorismo* poems and romantic epigrams of the early 1950s, to the increasingly spiritually and politically engaged verse he wrote as priest and activist—including his classic revolutionary documentary poem "Zero Hour"—to the shorter victory and ecology poems and elegies to fallen Sandinistas, to the cosmic-mystical-scientific dimensions of his later work. "Here they are—," editor Jonathan Cohen writes in his Introduction, "to gladden your heart and enrich your soul."

Ernesto Cardenal was born in 1925 in Granada, Nicaragua. Revolutionary activist, disciple of Thomas Merton, Roman Catholic priest, founder of the contemplative commune Our Lady of Solentiname, ambassador for the Sandinistas, Minister of Culture in post-Somoza Nicaragua, and co-founder of the international cultural center House of Three Worlds, Cardenal, on his eightieth birthday, was given the nation's highest cultural honor, the Order of Rubén Darío, by President Enrique Bolaños in 2005. **Jonathan Cohen** has been translating Cardenal since 1970. He is the author of the translations of his *With Walker in Nicaragua and Other Early Poems (1949–1954)* and *From Nicaragua, With Love: Poems (1979–1986)*, winner of the Robert Payne Award of the Translation Center at Columbia University.