My Padrino

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Abstract A cherished Santero father figure, the author's *padrino* (godfather), brings hope and healing into his life.

My godfather is an organic intellectual
With endless remedies for heartache
His best remedy so far is his embrace
And when he says to me “my son, everything will be alright”

My godfather is an organic intellectual
He knows hundreds and hundreds of sacred plants
He sings to them, summons their energies
He says to me “*la primera alabanza es el canto*” (the first form of worship is song)

My godfather is an organic intellectual
His mind is filled with eternal sacred chants
I bow down, forehead to the floor
I salute him, “*dide*” (rise up) he says, and lifts my soul

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