

**MARÍA EVA DUARTE DE PERÓN (1919–1952)**  
***IN MY OWN WORDS* (1996)**

**My Supreme Will**

I want to live with Perón and with my People forever.

This is my absolute and final wish, and it will therefore also be, when my time is up, the last wish of my heart.

Wherever Perón is, and wherever my *descamisados* are, there, too, will be my heart to love them with all the strength of my life and with all the fanaticism of my soul.

If God were to take Perón from the world before me, I would go with him, because I would not be able to survive without him. But my heart would remain with my *descamisados*, with my women, my workers, my elderly, my children, to help them live with the affection of my love; to help them fight with the fire of my fanaticism; and to help them suffer with a little of my own pain.

Because I have suffered greatly; but my pain has been worth the people's happiness, . . . and I did not want to deny it—I do not want to deny it—I accept suffering to the last day of my life if that will serve to stop the bleeding of even one wound, or dry even one tear.

But if God were to take me from the world before Perón, I want to remain with him and with my people, and my heart and my affection and my soul and my fanaticism will stay with them. Those things will keep living in them, doing all the good that is lacking, giving them all the love I couldn't give them in the years of my life, and lighting the fire of my fanaticism that burns and consumes me like a bitter and infinite thirst in their souls every day.

With all those belongings, I would like to set up a permanent fund of social aid for cases of collective misfortune that affect the poor, and I would like them to accept it as one more proof of my affection.

In those cases, for example, I want a subsidy equal to at least one year's salary granted to each family.

With the permanent "Evita" fund, I also want to establish scholarships so that the workers' children can study and thereby become the defenders of Perón's doctrine for whose delightful cause I would give my life.

My jewellery does not belong to me. Most of it was gifts from my people. But even what I received from my friends or from foreign countries, or from the General, I want to return to the people.

I never want it to fall into the hands of the oligarchy, and that's why I want it to constitute in the museum of Peronism, a permanent credit to be used only in direct benefit to the people.

Just as in some countries money is backed by gold, my jewellery should be the backing of a permanent credit that the national Banks will open for the benefit of the people, with the goal of building housing for the workers of my Nation.

I would also wish that the poor, the elderly, the children, my *descamisados* would continue to write me as they do in these times of my life, and that the monument which the Congress of my People wanted to erect for me\* would reflect the hopes of all, and that those hopes would be made real through my Foundation; which I hope will always remain pure, the way I conceived it for my *descamisados*.

This way I will always feel close to my people, and I will continue to be the bridge of love drawn between the *descamisados* and Perón.

Finally, I want everyone to know that if I made mistakes, I made them out of love. I hope that God, who has always seen my heart, will judge me not by my mistakes or my defects or my faults, which are many, but rather by the love that consumes my life.

My last words are the same as the first. I want to live with Perón and with my people forever.

God will forgive me if I would rather stay with them because he, too, is with the poor, and I have always seen a little bit of God in every *descamisado* who asked me for a little love, which I never withheld.

\*Evita's final resting place was to have been part of a gigantic monument to be constructed in downtown Buenos Aires. The military coup that overthrew Perón in 1955 caused the project to be aborted.

**María Eva Duarte de Perón. *In My Own Words*, trans. Laura Dail (New York: New Press, 1996), 87–91.**