

Our guide, Juan Carlos, was always telling us facts about Ecuador and he would always say first, "Remember this. This is very important." So I wrote a poem about the things I want to remember.

1. Remember this.

When flights are delayed, know it is for a reason.

So that the wind can whip your senses when a taxi rides in three hours later than you expected.

And you will notice how the places will change but the way an ankle bend or an eye blinks doesn't.

And you will lie in bed and know that planes will get delayed, and delayed,  
but the wind whips anyway.

2. Remember this.

When a woman comes on the bus and sings a song in Quechua,

she will remind you that things don't have to be beautiful to mean something.

The language a complete opposite of the braids sliding down her back.

As the scenery strings behind her out the windows,

the song she sings sinks into us.

Despite her voice ridging on sound waves as unpleasant as it comes.

3. Remember this.

The rainforest is bigger than we are.

There are three sections of it, each more entangled in green than the last  
and our minds expand only as far as our bodies let them.

I have gone my whole life believing that waves only quiver because I want them to.

The rainforest is bigger than I am.

The stillness of a mist at night quiets you down

and all you can hear are crickets and monkeys and your fleeting importance.

You will remember that leaves have never wondered about you.

That a spider will go a lifetime without knowing your scent,

and you will again sleep under a canopy of unimportance and existential crisis,  
but this time, you will love it.

At least, I did.

4. Because moments are soft and gripping and we all try to hold onto them

the most we can because we know that remembering might be enough one day.

Remember this.

The people, the voices, the trees, the wind, the importance, remembering and forgetting,  
remember it.

I have been spending my time doing the best I can with the time I have been tying around myself.

5. Remember this.

Things will always fall into place.

6. Remember this.

Water and wind will keep whipping.