



## OBITUARY: Orlando Aguirre López, tribute to humility



2019 VAP Entry. Title: **Vale Orlando Aguirre-Lopez, The LEAD Group's French & Spanish Translator for 11 years.** Vale Orlando Aguirre-Lopez, El traductor de Español y Frances por 11 anos del grupo de plomo.

**Lead-Safety Message:** Over 100 of Orlando's excellent translations are helping The LEAD Group create a lead-safe world. Mensaje de seguridad del lider: mas de 100 excelentes traducciones de Orlando que han ayudado al Grupo del Plomo en crear un mundo seguro de plomo. Photographer: **Vanessa Aguirre.**

<https://volcanoartprize.com/portfolio-item/vale-orlando-aguirre-lopez-the-lead-groups-french-spanish-translator-for-11-years/>

*Orlando Aguirre López, homenaje a la humildad (Obituary for Orlando Aguirre-Lopez) was written in Spanish by Roberto Restrepo Ramírez, Special for THE CHRONICLE DEL QUINDÍO, COLOMBIA, JUN 09 2019, at <https://www.cronicadelquindio.com/noticia-completa-titulo-orlando-aguirre-lopez-homenaje-a-la-humildad-nota-130846> and translated from Spanish to English by Sandra Patricia Buckley for The LEAD Group Inc, Sydney, Australia, September 2019.*

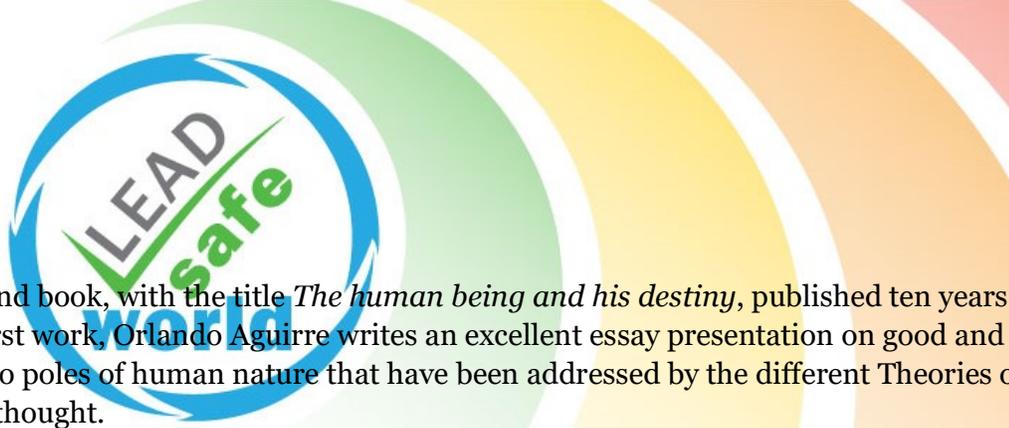
Orlando Aguirre López has physically disappeared, but his written legacy in the memory of this land [Colombia] survives. He died abroad on May 5, 2019.

Two well-written works, with their dedications are one of the best gifts he has given me; they are for me the greatest bibliographic heritage in Filandia. Their titles range between clarity and rigor of style. The books have left the most honest and intellectual work in the last years that this municipality has had. His pseudonym as a writer was Hermes.

In his first work, simply titled *Filandia, between fire and ice*, its lines describe in detail the two local tragedies suffered by the inhabitants of the "Colina Iluminada del Quindío". They were the fire of 1995 and the hailstorm of 1996.

In this first work, *Filandia between fire and ice*, he describes two major climatic events in the municipality.

The author does not remain in the mere narration of the two disasters. He also makes an x-ray of the municipal problem and ends his writing with the visionary proposal of what a development plan should be for his land.



In his second book, with the title *The human being and his destiny*, published ten years after his first work, Orlando Aguirre writes an excellent essay presentation on good and evil, the two poles of human nature that have been addressed by the different Theories or schools of thought.

Ironically, on page 122, the author presents this deep paragraph, as a reflection:

"Between death and madness, the human being should prefer death, because if madness is that wonderful approach to happiness, death is the madness of having lived".

Only a lucid mind could have understood this sublime reflection, which was revealed with the death that has come upon it, with a gloomy silence.

The two books were prologized by illustrious writers. They are Jaime Naranjo Orrego, the Filandeño (From Filandia) librarian, who points out in the first one that Orlando Aguirre "has written an important and solid essay on critical and analytical scrupulousness about the existence and development of our disastrous municipal regime.

What is intended in its pages is precisely to achieve an interesting comparison between official corruption such as the fire of inferno and the passivity of the citizen as the ice that stuns our initiatives.

Meanwhile, Umberto Senegal, the poet of Calarcá, in his introduction to the philosophical essay by Orlando Aguirre, does not hesitate to highlight "the balanced amalgam that its author makes of Eastern and Western ideas, which is a good starting point for those who want to revalue the world we inhabit"

To relieve his greatness as a writer, two works were enough. Unlike those who boast about publishing numerous books that teach little. Only two, judiciously written, will tell us who was the Orlando Aguirre López to whom we say good bye.

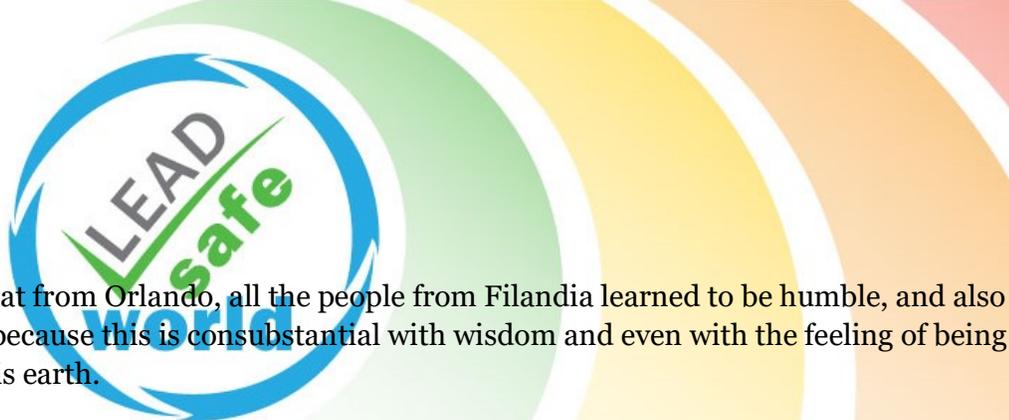
His life and his unpublished essays are a tribute to humility. This was testified in his dedication, directed to me, with his handwriting he wrote: "To the friend and admirer of these modest works."

It shines with height the other value of our countryman, modesty.

To the two beautiful qualities, we would add a third, simplicity.

It is curious to find that humility, modesty and simplicity are also the attributes of wise characters. Because that was Orlando Aguirre López, a wise man that never hid his origin and who always showed his pride in the root of his ancestors.

In the University of Pereira [Colombia] that welcomed him, many people admired the early age that marked his beginning as a teacher.



And it is that from Orlando, all the people from Filandia learned to be humble, and also to be happy, because this is consubstantial with wisdom and even with the feeling of being born on this earth.

From the wisdom of their parents and ours, because they left us the wealth of their expertise and the value of honesty.

Orlando never forgot the artistic spirit of his father Don Pablito Aguirre, who also cultivated with the grace of music in the municipal band.

But he also did not forget the value of the word and the honor of the truth, the two pillars of an anti-corruption policy for which he fought so hard.

I think Filandia lost the most sensible, balanced and bright of its men.

But we have his writings, which any leader should read and transmit for the application of his teachings.

I dare to say that not only has a great man left us. We never estimate the best mayor or cultural leader that Filandia could have had in its history.

Hopefully the reflection on his life will lead us all to keep the flame of his wisdom with our future actions.

He was an excellent intellectual, industrial engineer from the Technological University of Pereira. Master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh —USA—. University Professor, Emeritus, polyglot and visionary of science and culture.

However, Orlando, among us, was also the friend, the pleasant fellow member, the intrepid walker and the ambassador of Filandia abroad, where his land was always in the first place of his heart.

His brother Alcides as humble as him, his wife and his two children live in Filandia.

[*Editor's note:* actually, Orlando was living with his daughter Vanessa Aguirre and granddaughter Laura in Sydney, Australia at the time they travelled to Thailand for a holiday, where Orlando died of a heart attack on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019, aged 74, and was given a Buddhist funeral, and later a Catholic memorial service in Sydney – such was his openness to the world's philosophies and religions. This beautiful Obituary by Roberto Restrepo Ramírez, says so many things Orlando never told me despite us working together for 11 years, such was his humility. I really miss Orlando – a most wonderful, intelligent, generous, good man.]