

A Poem and its Self-translation

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Introduction

“Poema II/ Poem II”, a bilingual expression that goes beyond a mere literary translation, is part of the series *Poetízame las ganas/ Turn My Yearnings into Poetry*. Although it started as an original poem in Spanish, my first language, an English translation ended up coming together from the first lines. Very much influenced by the playful translations of Eliot Weibenger into English, I enjoy playing with source and target languages to puzzle the reader, by erasing the traces of the translation process, while, at the same time, keeping a foreign debris within the kind of

language I use in both texts. With these two pieces that arise as a reciprocated translation, the poet challenges a bilingual form of creative expression in which there is a clear refusal to utterly domesticate the texts. Love and language are, undoubtedly, both the object and the subject of the whole poem. They are represented through an unceasing analogy that depicts the symbolic connections behind these two intrinsic, most desired—and perhaps hardest to understand—human domains.

Poetízame las ganas, “Poema II”

Déjame ser sujeto
verbo y predicado
yo adornaré nuestra cópula
en el condicional y hasta en el pasado

te prometo definiciones compuestas
subjektivas, orgánicas o sincrónicas,
evoluciones causales, temporales
e incluso proposiciones filosóficas

léeme la cláusula de tu vida
 tu nombre
 tu elemento,

ven a ser mis cardinales
o mis ordinales carnales
o mi saliva en complemento

quiero que en imperativo
tus futuros se coordinen
 adverbialmente
con mis posibles subjuntivos
que nuestro léxico se renueve
y sea causativo, flexible, adversativo
con sitio siempre para un par
 de preposiciones
y un sinfín de sufijos aumentativos

quiero que sumemos
que usemos las comas
y los puntos suspensivos,
que me escribas entre líneas
 entre piernas
 entre versos
 entre besos

con labios multilingües
y caricias sin signos interrogativos

Turn My Yearning into Poetry, “Poem II”

Let me be subject
verb and predicate,
I will adorn our copula
in conditional and *in* past tense

I promise you compound definitions
subjective, organic, synchronic,
casual or causal resolutions or even
philosophical matters

read me the clause of your life
 your noun
 your element,

be my cardinal number
my carnal ordinal or come
to complete my cadence

I want that *in* imperative
your futures coordinate
 adverbially
with all my possible tenses,
and that our lexicon can upgrade
and be causative, flexible, appositive,
with infinite room for a pair of
 propositions
and endless augmentative suffixes

I want us to add,
to use commas
and ellipsis;
for you to write me between lines
 between legs
 between verses
 between kisses

with multilingual lips
free of any interrogative

que me respondas casi siempre
 en afirmativo
que me rebatas algunas veces
 en argumentativo
y nunca te olvides
de que soy texto y oralidad
sin ser exclusivos;

yo rimaré mi género y número
con tu apartado masculino
que es mi continente
y es tu contenido

porque deseo que se nos cumplan
al tiempo, los hipotéticos causativos
para que me declines cada noche
 en genitivo
 en vocativo
o dejes espacio para algún que otro
 superlativo

que las elipsis que nos surjan
no sean relativas
sino el resultado firme
de nuestros orgasmos apelativos
y que si comparas,
nunca haya lugar para los peyorativos

solo quíereme
y quíereme sólo siempre:
en presente
en futuro
en modo definitivo.

I want you to respond most times
 in affirmative
but to always refute me solely
 in argumentative
and never forget
that I am text and orality
though they aren't exclusive;

I will agree my gender and content
with your masculine distinction
which is of your continent
my favorite region

for I want that, with time,
we fulfill our hypothetical causatives
so that you can decline me every night
 in genitive
 in vocative
and leave space only for one or two
 superlatives

I want that the omissions we face
aren't relative,
just a firm result
of our orgasms *in* appellative
and that, if you compare,
there would never be room for
 pejoratives,

only love me
and love me only for ever:
in present
in future
without any restriction.