

ALBERTO BLANCO

MEXICO (1951–)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

LA LUCIÉRNAGA

En el campo el corazón
y la luna son hermanos;
y las luciérnagas son
estrellitas en las manos.

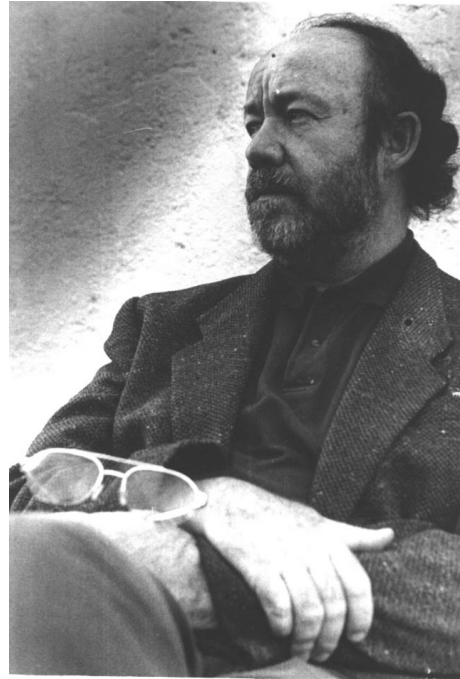


Photo by Dana Blanco Revah

Alberto Blanco often carries around a small pencil and journal for sketching or jotting down ideas. Bugs, birds, and other elements of nature are frequent images in his poems. With each piece, Blanco urges us to listen and watch more carefully. When asked why he does not translate his own poetry into English, he said, “I could not possibly translate into a language in which *la luna* (the moon) is no longer feminine.”

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
campo (n.)	open, rural area	field, meadow, pasture, countryside
corazón (n.)	organ that pumps blood to the rest of the body	heart
el (art.)	masculine singular—one as distinct from another	the
en (prep.)	indicates the place of something or someone	in, inside, within, upon
estrellitas (n.)	little points of light in the night sky	stars, luminous objects, twinkles
hermanos (n.)	male siblings; male and female siblings	brother and sister, brothers, siblings
la (art.)	female singular—one as distinct from another	the
las (art.)	feminine plural—some as distinct from others	the
luciérnagas (n.)	nocturnal beetles that produce light	fireflies, lightning bugs, glowworms
luna (n.)	the only natural satellite of earth	moon
manos (n.)	part of the body at the end of the human arm	hands
son (v.)	from of the verb ser—to exist or be	are
y (conj.)	something additional	and, as well as, plus

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

LA LUCIÉRNAGA _____

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y la luna son hermanos; _____

y las luciérnagas son _____

estrellitas en las manos. _____

REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
