

ALFREDO ESPINO

EL SALVADOR (1900–1928)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

EL NIDO

Es porque un pajarito de la montaña ha hecho,
en el hueco de un árbol su nido matinal,
que el árbol amanece con música en el pecho,
como que si tuviera corazón musical...

Si el dulce pajarito por entre el hueco asoma,
para beber rocío, para beber aroma,
el árbol de la sierra me da la sensación
de que se le ha salido, cantando, el corazón...



Alfredo Espino is one of El Salvador's most beloved poets. He is known for his extraordinary poems about nature. Hortensia, his sister, explained that nature was Espino's most powerful and generative muse. When they were children, their father took them for long walks in the countryside. Espino drew great inspiration from these adventures, producing marvelous poems filled with images of his experiences both real and imagined.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
amanece (v.)	from the verb <i>amanecer</i> , meaning to begin, usually referring to the day	dawns, wakes up, appears, arrives, emerges
árbol (n.)	a woody perennial plant with a tall trunk and lateral branches	tree
aroma (n.)	a distinctive smell, especially one that is pleasant	scent, fragrance, aroma, perfume, smell
asoma (v.)	from the verb <i>asomar</i> , meaning to push something out	pokes out, sticks out, thrusts out, juts out
beber (v.)	to take a liquid into the mouth and swallow	drink, gulp, swallow, sip, slurp
cantando (v.)	from the verb <i>cantar</i> , meaning to make musical sounds with the voice, especially words with a set tune	singing, crooning, chanting, warbling
como que si (conj.)	in the same way that	as if, as though, like
con (prep.)	accompanied by	with, together with
corazón (n.)	the basis of spiritual and emotional life	heart, spirit, soul
de (prep.)	indicates the source of something in terms of location, context, or time	from, of
dulce (adj.)	pleasing in general; delightful sounding	sweet, captivating; melodious, lyrical, musical
el (art.)	denoting one particular person or thing	the, that
en (prep.)	expressing the situation of being enclosed or surrounded by something else	in, inside, within, in the middle of
entre (prep.)	indicates an intermediate point between two places, people, or times	between, within, amongst, amid
es (v.)	from the verb <i>ser</i> , meaning to exist	it is
ha hecho (v.)	from the verb <i>hacer</i> , meaning to do or produce something	has made, has constructed, has built, has assembled

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
hueco (n.)	empty, concave place in a solid body or surface	hollow, hole, nook, burrow
la (art.)	denoting one particular person or thing	the, that
matinal (adj.)	associated with the period of time between sunrise and noon	morning, dawn, daybreak
me da (phrase)	from the verb <i>dar</i> , meaning to pass something to someone	gives me, produces in me
montaña (n.)	large natural elevation of the earth's surface	mountain, hill, mount, alps
música (n.)	aesthetically pleasing or harmonious vocal or instrumental sounds	music, melody, song, tunes, harmony
musical (adj.)	having a pleasant sound	musical, tuneful, melodic, melodious, sweet-sounding
nido (n.)	structure or place made or chosen by a bird for laying eggs and sheltering its young	nest
pajarito (n.)	a small egg-laying animal with feathers, wings, and a beak	little bird, birdie
para (conj.)	indicates an aim or objective	in order to, so as to
pecho (n.)	the front surface of a person's or animal's body between the neck and the abdomen	chest, breast
por (prep.)	indicates the origin of a movement	from
porque (conj.)	indicates a reason or cause	because, due to the fact that
que (conj.)	expressing a result	that
rocío	tiny drops of water that form on cool surfaces at night, when atmospheric vapor condenses	dew, condensation, water droplets
se le ha salido (phrase)	from the verb <i>salir</i> , meaning to go away from	it has left, it has disappeared, it has vanished, it has departed, it has exited
sensación (n.)	awareness of or sensitivity to something	feeling, sensation, impression

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
si (conj.)	indicates circumstances that must exist in order for something else to happen	if, whether, supposing
sierra (n.)	an elevated region characterized by remoteness and inaccessibility	mountains, mountain range, hills, alps, sierras
su (adj.)	belonging to a person or thing previously mentioned	its, his, her
tuviera (v.)	from the verb <i>tener</i> , meaning to contain or own something	had, possessed, enjoyed, held, carried
un (art.)	only one	a, an

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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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?
