

ANTONIO MACHADO

SPAIN (1875–1939)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

CAMINANTE

Caminante, son tus huellas
 el camino, y nada más;
 caminante, no hay camino,
 se hace camino al andar.
 Al andar se hace camino,
 y al volver la vista atrás
 se ve la senda que nunca
 se ha de volver a pisar.
 Caminante, no hay camino,
 sino estelas en la mar.



One of Spain's most famous poets, Antonio Machado came of age during the Spanish-American War of 1898. An avid reader, he became a professor of French literature in a small Spanish town. After the death of his wife, he moved closer to Madrid where his brother Manuel, also a poet, lived. When the Spanish Civil War began in 1936, however, the brothers were divided forever. Manuel lived in the Nationalist zone; Antonio and his mother lived in the opposing Republican zone. As the war continued, Machado and his mother were forced to flee several times—ultimately ending up across the French border where Machado passed away in 1939.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
a (prep.)	word used before an infinitive verb	to
al (prep. + art.)	in the process of doing something	while, by, when, upon, at the point of, at the moment of
andar (v.)	to travel by foot	walking, traveling, strolling, ambling, striding, hiking
caminante (n.)	person who travels on foot	wayfarer, wanderer, voyager, hiker, traveler
camino (n.)	path or way; course of action	road, path, pathway, trail, way, journey, track, avenue, course
el (art.)	masculine singular—indicating one as distinct from another	the
en (prep.)	indicates location, usually on top of or inside something else	in, on, within, upon
estelas (n.)	trails of disturbed water left by a moving body	wake, backwash, trail, ripples
huellas (n.)	impressions on the earth left by a moving body	footprints, tracks, paths, imprints, marks, footsteps
la (art.)	feminine singular—indicating one as distinct from another	the
mar (n.)	the expanse of water that covers most of the earth's surface	sea, ocean, water, surf, briny
más (adv.)	to a greater extent, additional	more, additional, extra, added, further, supplementary
nada (adv.)	not anything; something of no importance	nothing
no hay (v.)	to not exist	there is no, there is not
nunca (adv.)	at no time, certainly not	never, certainly not, on no account, by no means, not at all, in no way
pisar (v.)	to place one's foot on the ground, usually while walking	walk, tread, step, set foot, trample

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
que (conj.)	used to introduce a new clause	that
se ha de (verb phrase)	to imply a future action	one will have to, one shall have to, one is to, you will have to, you shall have to, you are to
se hace (v.)	from the verb <i>hacerse</i> —to make or be made	is made, is formed, is created, is constructed, is completed, one makes, one forms, one completes, you make, you form, you complete
se ve (v.)	from the verb <i>verse</i> —to see something	is seen, one sees, one observes, one perceives, one notices, you see, you observe, you perceive, you notice
senda (n.)	path; sequence of reactions	pathway, footway, footpath, track
sino (prep.)	not including; other than	but, if not, save for, besides, apart from, other than
son (v.)	from the verb <i>ser</i> —to be	are
tus (adj.)	belonging to the person spoken to	your
volver (v.)	come or go back; do again	return, come back, go back, get back, go again
volver la vista atrás (phrase)	to direct eyes at something so as to uncover something behind	looking back, gazing back
y (conj.)	used to introduce an additional comment or idea	and, as well as, plus

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

CAMINANTE _____

Caminante, son tus huellas _____

el camino, y nada más; _____

caminante, no hay camino, _____

se hace camino al andar. _____

Al andar se hace camino, _____

y al volver la vista atrás _____

se ve la senda que nunca _____

se ha de volver a pisar. _____

Caminante, no hay camino, _____

sino estelas en la mar. _____

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?
