

ELÍAS NANDINO

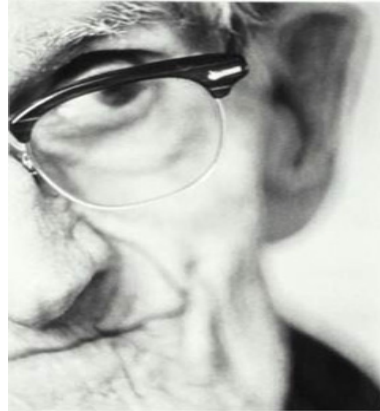
MÉXICO (1900–1993)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

METEORO

Sobre la mesa
un vaso
se desmaya,
 rueda,
 cae.

Al estrellarse
contra el piso,
una galaxia
nace.



Born in Cocula, Mexico, Elías Nandino began his career as a doctor, but his passion was poetry. Over his long life he won many poetry prizes and was recognized for his work in promoting writing and literature. Much of Nandino's poetry pays attention to how small things can make a big difference.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
al (prep. + art.)	two words combined— <i>to</i> indicates direction or position and <i>the</i> indicates one distinct from other	to the
cae (v.)	from the verb <i>caer</i> —moving downward	falls, cascades, drops, spills, tumbles
contra (prep.)	sudden contact/collision with something or someone	against, on, onto
el (art.)	masculine form—refers to something mentioned	the
estrellarse (v.)	to collide violently and break into pieces noisily	crash, collide, bump into, smash
galaxia (n.)	assembly of stars, gas, and dust	galaxy
la (art.)	feminine form of word—refers to something that has already been mentioned	the
mesa (n.)	item of furniture with a flat top	table, counter, stand
meteoro (n.)	piece of rock or metal that burns and glows as it falls from outer space into the Earth's atmosphere	meteor
nace (v.)	form of the verb <i>nacer</i> —it means brought to life	is born, begins, commences, starts, is set in motion
piso (n.)	part of room to walk on	floor, ground, base
rueda (adj.)	from the verb <i>rodar</i> —to turn over and over	rolls, wheels, reverberates, undulates
se desmaya (v.)	from the verb <i>desmayar</i> —to lose consciousness briefly	faints, passes out, swoons
sobre (prep.)	indicates position	on, on top of
un (art./adj.)	masculine form to distinguish something as unique	one, a, lone, single
una (art./adj.)	feminine form to distinguish something as unique	one, a, lone, single
vaso (n.)	transparent solid substance that is a container	glass, beaker, tumbler, goblet

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

METEORO _____

Sobre la mesa _____

un vaso _____

se desmaya, _____

rueda, _____

cae. _____

Al estrellarse _____

contra el piso, _____

una galaxia _____

nace. _____

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?
