

FRANKÉTIENNE

HAITI (1936–)

LANGUAGE: FRENCH

DIALECTE DES CYCLONES

(FRAGMENT)

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Je dis la folie des vents contraires.

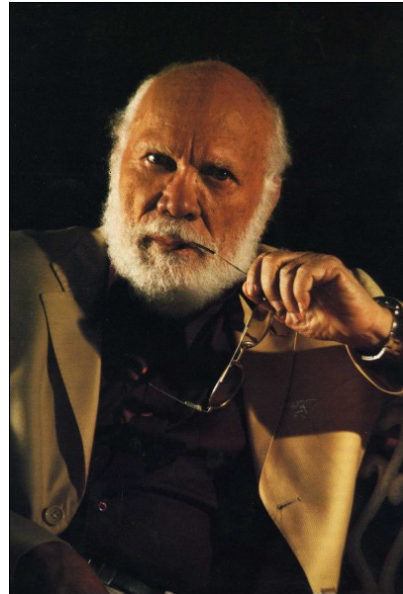
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Chaque nuit, je parle aux îles Caraïbes le langage des tempêtes hystériques. Je dis l'hystérie de la mer en rut.

Dialecte des cyclones. Patois des pluies. Langage des tempêtes. Déroulement de la vie en spirale.

Fondamentalement la vie est tension. Vers quelque chose. Vers quelqu'un. Vers soi-même. Vers le point de maturité où se dénouent l'ancien et le nouveau, la mort et la naissance. Et tout être se réalise en partie dans la recherche de son double, recherche qui se confond à la limite avec l'intensité d'un besoin, d'un désir, et d'une quête infinie.



Born Franck Étienne in a small town in Haiti, Frankétienne is Haiti's most famous writer. Abandoned by his father, a wealthy American industrialist, Frankétienne was raised by his mother, an illiterate street merchant who managed to save enough money to send Frankétienne to school. Later he wrote the first modern novel that had ever been written in Haitian Creole, though he realized later that few people could read it because of the low rate of literacy in his country. He began to write plays and create paintings in addition to writing. During the violent dictatorship led by Duvalier, Frankétienne was one of the few artists and writers to remain in the country, refusing to go into exile. He was one of the founders of Spiralism, a literary movement that promoted the idea that everything is interconnected but uncontrollable. The hurricane of 2010 destroyed much of his hometown. He continues to live, write, and paint in Haiti.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
à la limite (phrase)	used to indicate a particular interpretation of a statement or situation	in a sense, you could say, to a certain extent, one might say, perhaps even
aux (prep. + art.)	directed toward multiple people or things already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	at the, to the, with the
avec (prep.)	accompanying or possessing another person or thing	with, along with, using
besoin (n.)	something that is wanted or required	need, requirement, necessity, urge, demand
Caraïbes (n.)	the region southeast of the Gulf of Mexico; of or relating to the Caribbean Sea, its islands, or the peoples and cultures of this region	Caribbean
chaque (adj.)	referring to one of two or more people or things, regarded separately	each, every, all
contraires (adj.)	opposite in nature, direction, or meaning	opposite, opposing, contrary, clashing, conflicting
cyclones (n.)	systems of winds rotating inward to an area of low atmospheric pressure	cyclones, tropical storms
dans (prep.)	situated within the confines of something	within, in, inside
de (prep.)	expressing ownership or the relationship between a part and a whole	of, from, about
débordement (n.)	an excess or outpouring of a large amount of water	flood, overflowing, excess, inundation, outpouring, surge
déroulement (n.)	the act of opening from a coiled state; the development of an action	rolling out, rollout, unrolling, unveiling, uncoiling, unfurling, proceedings, continuity
des (prep. + art.)	expressing ownership or the relationship between a part and a whole considered common knowledge	of the, from the, about the

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
désir (n.)	a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen	desire, wish, yearning, longing, aspiration
dialecte (n.)	a particular form of language that is peculiar to a specific region or social group	dialect, language, jargon, vernacular, lingo, slang
dis (v.)	from the verb <i>dire</i> —to utter words to convey information, a feeling or intention, or an instruction	say, state, recite, utter, speak, articulate, voice, vocalize
double (n.)	a person who looks exactly like another	double, twin, clone, look-alike, duplicate, splitting image
d'un(e) (prep. + art.)	expressing ownership or the relationship between a part and a whole mentioned for the first time	of a(n), from a(n)
eaux (n.)	stretches of colorless, transparent, odorless liquid that is the basis of the fluids of living organisms	waters, seas, oceans, streams
en (prep.)	indicates a state of being or the material that makes something up	in, of
en partie (adv.)	to some extent; not completely	in part, partly, somewhat, a little, not entirely
en rut (adj.)	the state of mating and producing offspring, especially of animals	rutting, breeding, in heat
est (v.)	from the verb <i>être</i> —to exist	is
et (conj.)	in addition to	and, as well as, plus
être (n.)	a single human being	being, human, person, individual
folie (n.)	lack of good sense	folly, madness, lunacy, chaos
fondamentalement (adv.)	used to make a bold statement about the basic truth of something	fundamentally, completely, inherently, at heart, essentially
fous (adj.)	characterized or caused by madness	insane, mad, crazy, deranged, wild
furie (n.)	wild or violent anger	fury, rage, wrath, outrage, anger
furieuses (adj.)	extremely angry	furious, enraged, raging mad, fierce, relentless, livid

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
hystériques (adj.)	deriving from or affected by uncontrolled extreme emotion	hysterical, frenzied, frantic, wild, feverish, raving
îles (n.)	pieces of land surrounded by water	islands, isles
infinie (adj.)	limitless or endless in space, extent, or size	infinite, indefinite, countless, boundless, endless, never-ending
je (pron.)	referring to the speaker	I
j'emploie (v.)	from the verb <i>employer</i> —to make use of	I use, I employ, I make use of
jour (n.)	a period of twenty-four hours, from one midnight to the next	day, daytime
j'utilise (v.)	from the verb <i>utiliser</i> —to take, hold, or deploy something as a means of accomplishing a purpose	I use, I utilize, I employ, I make use of
la (art.)	a person or thing already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	the
l'ancien (art. + n.)	that which has lived or existed for a long time	the ancient, the old, the elderly, the bygone
langage (n.)	method of human communication, either spoken or written	language, tongue, vocabulary, words
le (art.)	a person or thing already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	the
l'hystérie (art. + n.)	exaggerated or uncontrollable emotion or excitement, especially among a group of people	the hysteria, the frenzy, the mania, the delirium
l'intensité (n.)	the quality of being extreme in force, degree, or strength	intensity, strength, power, gusto, passion
maturité (n.)	the state, fact, or period of being fully developed physically or emotionally	maturity, adulthood, coming-of-age, wisdom, ripeness
mer (n.)	the expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface	sea, ocean, deep blue, surf, swell
mort (n.)	the end of the life of a person or organism	death, demise, end, departure, passing
naissance (n.)	the beginning or coming into existence of something	birth, emergence, genesis, delivery, childbirth, creation

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
nouveau (n.)	that which is made, introduced, or discovered recently or now for the first time	new, latest, modern, current, youthful, contemporary
nuit (n.)	the period of darkness from sunset to sunrise	night, nightfall, hours of darkness, nighttime
où (adv.)	the place or situation in which	where, at which
parle (v.)	from the verb <i>parler</i> —to say something in order to convey information, an opinion, or a feeling	speak, talk, utter, voice, pronounce
patois (n.)	the dialect of the common people of a region, differing from the standard language of the rest of the country	dialect, regional language, vernacular, jargon, cant, lingo, slang
pluies (n.)	collections of moisture condensed from the atmosphere and falling in drops	showers, rainfalls, rainstorms, deluges, torrents, downpours
point (n.)	a particular spot, place, or moment in time or space	point, moment, stage, juncture, phase
quelque chose (n.)	a thing that is unknown or unspecified	something, whatever, an object
quelqu'un (pron.)	an unknown or unspecified person	someone, somebody
quête (n.)	a long or arduous search for something	quest, search, hunt, crusade, exploration
qui (pron.)	referring to something or someone previously mentioned when giving further information	that, which, who
recherche (n.)	the act of trying to find something or someone	search, journey, pursuit, quest, chase, investigation, hunt
se confond (v.)	from the verb <i>se confondre</i> —to become entangled in or perplexed by	combines, merges, gets mixed up, gets confused, becomes unclear
se dénouent (v.)	from the verb <i>se dénouer</i> —to come undone	unknot, come apart, untangle, separate, unsnarl
se réalise (v.)	from the verb <i>se réaliser</i> —to become true or part of reality	is realized, is fulfilled, is created, becomes real
soi-même (pron.)	a person's own self	oneself, yourself

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
soir (n.)	the period of time at the end of the day, from about 6:00 p.m. to bedtime	evening, late afternoon, end of day, sunset, sundown, eve, dusk, twilight
son (adj.)	belonging to or associated with a person or thing previously mentioned	one's, its, his, her
spirale (n.)	a pattern of winding in a continuous and gradually tightening curve around a central point or axis	spiral, coil, helix, corkscrew
tempêtes (n.)	violent, windy storms	storms, tempests, thunderstorms, hurricanes, typhoons
tension (n.)	physical, mental, or emotional state of being stretched tight	tension, strain, stress, anxiety, pressure, agitation
tout (adj.)	used to refer to all the individual members of a set	every, each, all
vents (n.)	the perceptible natural movement of the air	winds, torrents, breezes, gusts, air currents, gales
vers (prep.)	in the direction of	toward, at, to
vie (n.)	the condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inorganic matter	life, existence, being, living

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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à la limite avec l'intensité d'un besoin, d'un désir, et d'une quête infinie.

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?
