

# GABRIELA MISTRAL

CHILE (1889–1957)

LANGUAGE: SPANISH

## DAME LA MANO

*A Tasso da Silveira*

Dame la mano y danzaremos;  
Dame la mano y danzaremos;  
dame la mano y me amarás.  
Como una sola flor seremos,  
como una flor, y nada más...

El mismo verso cantaremos,  
al mismo paso bailarás.  
Como una espiga ondularemos,  
como una espiga, y nada más.

Te llamas Rosa y yo Esperanza;  
pero tu nombre olvidarás,  
porque seremos una danza  
en la colina y nada más...



The only Latin American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature,\* Gabriela Mistral was born Lucila Godoy Alcayaga. She published all of her work under the pseudonym Gabriela Mistral, which she created by combining the names of her two favorite poets. Lucila, or Gabriela, a name she used for most of her life, grew up in a small Andean town in Chile and was educated by her older sister who taught at the local primary school. Though she only attended school until the age of twelve, she later became a teacher and then a diplomat. Mistral was dedicated to defending the rights of women, children, and the poor and the freedoms of democracy. Because she was so beloved by the people of Chile, the Chilean government declared three days of national mourning when she died of cancer in 1957.

\* Gabriela Mistral won the Nobel Prize in 1945.

## TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
a (prep.)	directed toward or for someone	to, for
al (prep.)	contraction of <i>a</i> and <i>el</i> —indicates direction or position in reference to a thing	to the, for the, at the
amarás (v.)	future tense of the verb <i>amar</i> —to feel affection or desire for; to cherish	you will love, you will fall in love, you will be devoted
bailarás (v.)	future tense of the verb <i>bailar</i> —to move rhythmically, usually to music	you will dance, you will frolic, you will cavort, you will swing
cantaremos (v.)	future tense of the verb <i>cantar</i> —to produce musical tones by means of the voice	we will sing, we will recite, we will chant
colina (n.)	slight elevation of the earth's surface	hill, bluff, dune, ridge
como (prep.)	in the manner of; similar to	like, akin to, similar to, not unlike
dame (v.)	command form of the verb <i>dar</i> —to put into the possession of another for his or her use	give me, lend me, present me with, hand over
danza (n.)	movement with rhythmical steps, usually to music	dance, strut, jive, movement
danzaremos (v.)	future tense of the verb <i>danzar</i> —to move with rhythmic steps, usually artistically to music	we will dance, we will sway, we will frolic
el (masc. art.)	indicating one as distinct from another	the
en (prep.)	indicates state	in
esperanza (n.)	a desire for certain events to happen; also a woman's name	hope, desire, expectation, the name <i>Esperanza</i>
espiga (n.)	a shoot; tall and thin plant stem	grain, sprig, sprout
flor (n.)	the part of a plant with petals and from which the seed or fruit develops	flower, blossom
la (fem. art.)	indicating one as distinct from another	the
mano (n.)	the end part of the human arm below the wrist	hand, mitt, palm, paw
más (adv.)	greater than	more, in addition, further, besides, else
me (pron.)	refers to the speaker	me
mismo (adj.)	equal in shape, size, value, or importance	same, twin, copy

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
nada (n.)	the absence of things; no thing	nothing, zero
nombre (n.)	a word or phrase that labels a person, place, or thing	name, alias, nickname, namesake, label
olvidarás (v.)	future tense of the verb <i>olvidar</i> —to not be able to remember	you will forget, will escape your memory, will leave your mind
ondularemos (v.)	future tense of the verb <i>ondular</i> —to rise, fall, or move in waves	we will undulate, we will ripple, we will flutter, we will sway
paso (n.)	a movement made by raising the foot and bringing it down elsewhere	step, stride, footfall, beat
pero (conj.)	except for the fact	but, however, except
porque (conj.)	for the reason that; seeing that	because, since, as
rosa (n.)	the many-petaled, thorned flower; the color pink; also a woman's name	rose, pink, rose-colored, the name <i>Rosa</i> (Rose)
seremos (v.)	future tense of the verb <i>ser</i> —to equal in meaning; to have identity with	we will be, we will exist as, we will become, we will transform into
sola (adj.)	one only	single, lone, unique, without company
Tasso da Silveira	name of a Brazilian writer and poet to whom this poem is dedicated	
te llamas (reflex. v.)	from the verb <i>llamarse</i> —to give a name to	you call yourself, your name is, you are called
tu (adj.)	belonging to you	your
una (art.)	used to distinguish something	one, a
verso (n.)	words subjected to rhythm or meter	verse, line, song, poetry
y (conj.)	in addition to	and
yo (pron.)	refers to the speaker	I

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHRASE BY PHRASE

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*A Tasso de Silveira* \_\_\_\_\_

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dame la mano y me amarás. \_\_\_\_\_

Como una sola flor seremos, \_\_\_\_\_

como una flor, y nada más... \_\_\_\_\_

El mismo verso cantaremos, \_\_\_\_\_

al mismo paso bailarás. \_\_\_\_\_

Como una espiga ondularemos, \_\_\_\_\_

como una espiga, y nada más. \_\_\_\_\_

Te llamas Rosa y yo Esperanza; \_\_\_\_\_

pero tu nombre olvidarás, \_\_\_\_\_

porque seremos una danza \_\_\_\_\_

en la colina y nada más... \_\_\_\_\_



## REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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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?

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

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

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