

GËZIM HAJDARI

ALBANIA (1957 –)

LANGUAGE: ITALIAN

POETIC FORM: FREE VERSE

PARTIAMO DI NOTTE

Partiamo di notte,
dimenticando che siamo ciechi,
per raggiungere un territorio nudo
del quale ha bisogno la nostra voce.
Andiamo al mare per parlare
e lanciare sassi controvento.



Gëzim Hajdari writes poetry in Albanian and Italian. He had to flee Albania after he criticized its communist government. He immigrated to Italy. For many years he lived alone in an abandoned building near Rome. He writes about exile, rebellion, and isolation. He explains: "My true homeland is my language and my body. We must be perennial travelers."*

*From an interview with Warscapes, 23 May 2013,
<http://warscapes.com/conversations/ode-exile>

| TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY | | |
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| WORD | DEFINITION | POSSIBLE SYNONYMS |
| al (prep.) | indicating direction of something | to the, toward the |
| andiamo (v.) | from the verb <i>andare</i> meaning to go | we go, we travel, we reach |
| ciechi (adj.) | having no sense of sight | blind, sightless, unseeing |
| controvento (adv.) | opposite to the direction the wind blows | against the wind, into the wind, upwind |
| dimenticando che (v. + conj.) | from the verb <i>dimenticare</i> meaning to be unable to keep something in one's memory | forgetting that, disregarding that, not remembering that |
| di notte (prep. + n.) | during the time of day after the sun sets | at night, in the dark, at dusk |
| del quale (prep. + pron.) | used to refer to something previously mentioned when introducing a clause giving further information | that, which, that which |
| e (conj.) | in addition to | and, plus, also |
| ha bisogno (v.) | used to express necessity; from the verb <i>avere</i> meaning to have and the word <i>bisogno</i> meaning need | need, want, require |
| la nostra voce (possessive pron. + n.) | sound made using vocal organs, belonging to the speaker plus one or more people | our voices, our words |
| lanciare (v.) | to propel something through the air | to throw, to hurl, to cast |
| mare (n.) | a large body of salt water, or the area near it | sea, seaside, beach, shore |
| nudo (adj.) | having no covering or clothes on | bare, naked, unclothed, exposed |
| parlare (v.) | to utter words | to speak, to talk |
| partiamo (v.) | from the verb <i>partire</i> meaning to go away from a place | we depart, we leave, we go |

| WORD | DEFINITION | POSSIBLE SYNONYMS |
|------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| per (prep.) | with the purpose of | to, in order to, so as to |
| raggiungere (v.) | come to a place | arrive at, reach, get to |
| sassi (n.) | a hard mineral material | rocks, stones, pebbles |
| siamo (v.) | from the verb <i>essere</i> meaning to be | we are |
| territorio (n.) | area of land belonging to a country or a group of people | territory, country, land, place |
| un (art.) | used to refer to someone or something for the first time | a, an, one |

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

PARTIAMO DI NOTTE _____

Partiamo di notte, _____

dimenticando che siamo ciechi, _____

per raggiungere un territorio nudo _____

del quale ha bisogno la nostra voce. _____

Andiamo al mare per parlare _____

e lanciare sassi controvento. _____

DEFENDING YOUR TRANSLATION—FINDING THE 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?
