

# MARIANA MARIN

ROMANIA (1956–2003)

LANGUAGE: ROMANIAN

## M. M.

Liniile din palma mea stângă  
seamana uimitor cu cele din palma mea dreapta.  
Nu știu ce înseamnă pentru chiromanti asta.  
E ca și cum as fi venit lume în rugăciune.



Mariana Marin was born in Bucharest, Romania. After her parents divorced, her mother and grandmother raised her. She was silenced during much of the 1980s by the Ceaușescu dictatorship. Moving between enthusiasm and disappointment during those troubled years, barely making a living, she survived with the help of friends and the Writers' Union, before descending into chronic alcoholism and developing tuberculosis. Despite her misery and ills, she kept writing—publishing six books of poetry.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
asta (pron.)	previously mentioned and understood by the speaker and hearer	this
ce (pron.)	asking for information specifying something	what
chiromanti (n.)	a person who practices palmistry, a fortune-teller	palmist, palm-reader
cu cele (adj.)	used to identify a specific person or thing observed by the speaker while indicating an association between two entities	those of
din (prep.)	expressing the relationship between a part and a whole	with, from
dreapta (adj.)	relating to the side of a human body or of a thing that is to the east when the person or thing is facing north	right
e ca și cum as fi	phrase translation	it's like I had, it is as though I had
in (prep.)	expressing the situation of something that is or appears to be enclosed or surrounded by something else	in, in the middle of
înseamnă (v.)	to have a particular meaning	it means
liniile (n.)	long, narrow marks or bands	lines, contours, configurations
lume (n.)	the earth, with all of its countries, peoples, and natural features	world, earth, planet
mea (adj.)	belonging to or associated with the speaker	my
nu (adv.)	something not to be done	don't, do not
palma (n.)	the inner surface of the hand between the wrist and fingers	palm
pentru (prep.)	aimed at, on behalf of	for
rugăciune (n.)	a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship	prayer, plea, appeal, wish, hope
seamana (v.)	has qualities or features in common with someone or something	looks, resembles, seems to be, appears to be

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
stângă (adj.)	relating to the side of a human body or of a thing that is to the west when the person or thing is facing north	left
știu (v.)	hold information in mind, be certain about something	(I) know
uimitor (adj.)	causing great wonder or surprise	amazing, astonishing, breath-taking, surprising
venit (v.)	moved or traveled toward or into a place	came, moved nearer, approached, drew closer

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

## PHRASE BY PHRASE

M. M.

Liniile din palma mea stângă \_\_\_\_\_

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seamana uimitor cu cele din palma mea dreapta. \_\_\_\_\_

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Nu ştiu ce înseamnă pentru chiromanti asta. \_\_\_\_\_

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E ca şi cum as fi venit lume in rugăciune. \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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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