

STELLA N'DJOKU

SWITZERLAND (1993-)

LANGUAGE: ITALIAN

Cosa dicono le vene
fatte ad albero sui polsi e il pulsare
che ferma il respiro?
L'eternità è il nostro nominarsi
nei secoli
come una carezza
una promessa.



Stella N'Djoku is a poet, journalist, and teacher from Ticino, the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland. Her mother's family comes from Italy and her father is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She studied philosophy, science, and theology. Her poems often talk about nature, grief, and identity. In her words, "poetry helps open you up to life." *

*From an interview in the Swiss newspaper
Corriere del Ticino:
<https://www.cdt.ch/prodotti/grazie-alla-poesia-con-poche-parole-posso-esprimere-grandi-concetti-325285>

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
albero (n.)	plants with leaves and wooden trunks	tree, branch
carezza (n.)	a gentle action	touch, caress, stroke
che (pron.)	refers to something previously mentioned	that, which
come (prep.)	used to express similarity	like, similar to, as
cosa (pron.)	asking for information	what
dicono (v.)	from the verb <i>dire</i> , meaning to say	do they say, do they speak
e (conj.)	in addition to	and, as well as
è (v.)	from the verb <i>essere</i> , meaning to be	is, exists
fatte ad (v. + prep.)	from the verb <i>fare</i> , meaning to make	made like, built like, shaped like
ferma (v.)	from the verb <i>fermare</i> , meaning to stop	blocks, halts, hinders
il (art.)	denoting one or more people or things already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	the
le (art.)	denoting one or more people or things already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	the
l'eternità (art. + n.)	unending time	eternity, infinity
nei (prep.)	denoting location or position	in the, inside the, within the
nominarsi (v. + pron.)	from the verb <i>nominare</i> , meaning to call something by name, used when the subject and the object of the sentence are the same	naming ourselves, calling ourselves

nostro (possessive pron.)	belonging to the speaker plus one or more people	our
polsi (n.)	part of the body that connects hand to forearm	wrists
promessa (n.)	a declaration to do something	pledge, vow, promise
pulsare (v.)	to expand and contract with regular movements	throbbing, beating, thumping
respiro (n.)	taking air into the lungs	breathing, breath, inhalation
secoli (n.)	a period of one hundred years	centuries, eons, ages
sui (prep.)	denoting location or position	on the, upon the
una (art.)	used when referring to something for the first time	one, a
vene (n.)	part of the body where blood circulates	veins, arteries, vessels

Name: _____

Date: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

Cosa dicono le vene _____

fatte ad albero sui polsi e il pulsare _____

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L'eternità è il nostro nominarsi _____

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una promessa. _____