

PAUL VERLAINE

FRANCE (1844–1896)

LANGUAGE: FRENCH

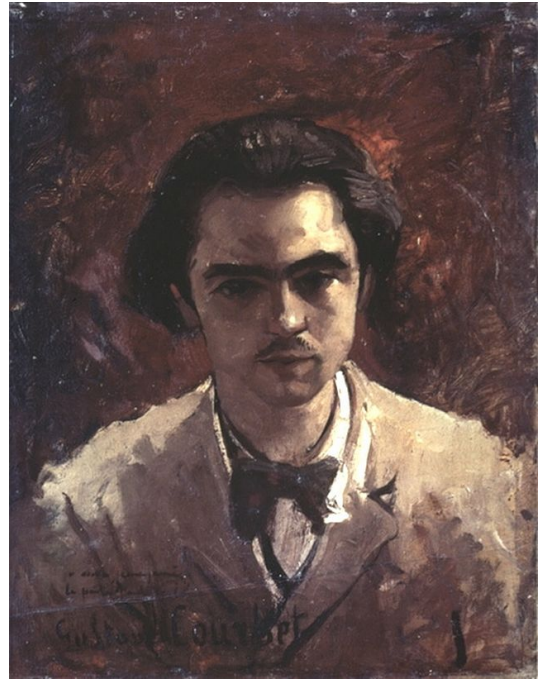
IL PLEURE DANS MON CŒUR

Il pleure dans mon cœur
Comme il pleut sur la ville;
Quelle est cette langueur
Qui pénètre mon cœur?

Ô bruit doux de la pluie
Par terre et sur les toits!
Pour un cœur qui s'ennuie,
Ô le chant de la pluie!

Il pleure sans raison
Dans ce cœur qui s'écoëure.
Quoi? nulle trahison?...
Ce deuil est sans raison.

C'est bien la pire peine
De ne savoir pourquoi
Sans amour et sans haine
Mon cœur a tant de peine!



Like other French Symbolist poets, Paul Verlaine was inspired by spirituality, imagination, and dreams. After publishing his first book of poetry in 1866, he enjoyed a few years of success before running off on a disastrous adventure with fellow poet Arthur Rimbaud. The two poets fell in love, but their relationship ended a year later after a passionate and violent argument. Verlaine taught French, Latin, and Greek in England for a few years before returning to Paris, poor and lonely. Despite the difficulties of his personal life, Verlaine never stopped writing. In 1894 his fellow writers elected him “Prince of Poets,” and by the time of his death he had published two-dozen collections of poetry. His poetry is known for its musical quality and its ability to capture moods and feelings.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
a (v.)	from the verb <i>avoir</i> —to have	has, possesses, contains, holds
amour (n.)	an intense feeling of deep affection	love, affection, endearment, ardor, tenderness
bien (adv.)	used to emphasize a statement or response confirming something already suggested	indeed, certainly, surely, truly, easily, very well
bruit (n.)	vibrations that are heard	sound, noise, patter, din
c'est (pron + v.)	from the verb <i>être</i> —to be	it is, it's, that is, this is
ce, cette (adj.)	referring to a specific idea, person, place, or object	this
chant (n.)	the act or art of singing; a musical composition	song, singing, crooning, hymn, chant, tune, melody, ballad, ditty
cœur (n.)	regarded as the center of a person's thoughts and emotions	heart, soul, spirit
comme (conj.)	used to indicate by comparison the way that something happens or is done; used to indicate that something happens during the same time	as, like, just as, the same way, while, even as, at the same time that
dans (prep.)	enclosed or surrounded by something else	in, inside, within, enclosed by
de (prep.)	expressing the relationship between a part and a whole	of
de ne savoir (v.)	from the verb <i>savoir</i> —to be familiar with	to not know, not knowing, to not be aware, not being aware of
deuil (n.)	a deep sadness, especially one caused by someone's death	grief, pain, sorrow, misery, mourning
doux (adj.)	pleasing in general	sweet, soft, gentle, pleasant, light, delightful
est (v.)	from the verb <i>être</i> —to be	is
et (conj.)	in addition to	and
haine (n.)	strong dislike	hate, hatred, malice, contempt, aversion, ill will, bitterness

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
il pleure (v.)	from the verb <i>pleurer</i> —to cry	there is crying, there is sobbing, there is weeping, it cries, it sobs, it weeps
il pleut (v.)	from the verb <i>pleuvoir</i> —to rain	it rains, it is raining, there is rain
la, le (art.)	distinguishing one from another	the
languueur (n.)	the state or feeling of tiredness or stillness	languor, lethargy, sluggishness, fatigue, weariness, sleepiness, drowsiness, laziness, apathy
les (art.)	distinguishing some from others	the
mon (adj.)	belonging to the speaker	my
nulle (adj.)	negative; not any	no, not, not at all, by no means
ô (exclamation)	a statement of excitement or surprise	oh, what, such
par (prep.)	indicating location or means of	on, upon, by, via, through, to
peine (n.)	mental or emotional suffering	pain, anguish, agony, misery, torment
pénètre (v.)	from the verb <i>pénétrer</i> —to get into	penetrates, enters, seeps into, soaks into, infiltrates
pire (adj.)	the opposite of the best	worst
pluie (n.)	water that falls in droplets from the sky	rain, shower, raindrops, deluge, drizzle, downpour, rainfall
pour (prep.)	a word used to indicate purpose	for
pourquoi (adv.)	for what reason or purpose	why
quelle (pron.)	asking for information specifying something	which, what
qui (pron.)	referring to a specific person or thing	that, which, who
quoi (interj.)	used to express surprise	what, huh
raison (n.)	an explanation of why something is the way it is	reason, sense, motive
s'écœure (v.)	from the verb <i>s'écœurer</i> —to lose hope or enthusiasm	is discouraged, is disheartened, is dejected, is dismayed, is dispirited
s'ennuie (v.)	from the verb <i>s'ennuyer</i> —to be bored	is bored, is sick and tired, is fatigued, is disinterested, is spiritless
sans (prep.)	not having or including	without, lacking, missing, free of

WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
sur (prep.)	physically in contact with and being supported by	upon, on, on top of, onto
tant (adv.)	a lot of	so much, such
terre (n.)	the surface of the earth	ground, earth, land, floor, soil
toits (n.)	the structure forming the upper covering of a building or vehicle	roofs, canopies, rafters, ceilings
trahison (n.)	the harmful act of deceiving someone	betrayal, treason, disloyalty, infidelity, treachery, deceit
un (art.)	one single; any	a, an, one, any, a certain
ville (n.)	a place where people live	town, city, village

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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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?
