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FLAMENCO
(FOR 5 RECITING VOICES)*

translated by Italo Gianquinto

(For Joaquín Cortés)

I

Albatross¹

sacred by impure secrets
to long wings entrusted

the white throbs
- loving arms,
stretched out on the seas -
grazed oceans
- surging breathing
panting on the waves -
and frothy crests
soothed
in the grazing embraces:
the hurricanes kept at bay

the dances of wing pulsations
in the grey tempests
of antarctic seas and lands
far away from sight

pelagic bird
that weeps its cry
of malencholy
in the cold solstices of winter
that don't know about tempests
yet,
don't know
about murtuary flights,
laden, among the wings
the body of its companion

and then the preys
laid down on the shores
- the tails shaping wheels
dusty symbols of the sun -
wandering oceanic heron
storm bearer
in the hoarse shriek of death
and in the shriek once more,
sad for love

doce, doce alcatraz de amor²

¹ Albatross, bird sacred to a god, is subject to a taboo.

² Portuguese: to be read approximately “doice, doice alcatras si amor”

II

And the bull

a black flower that breaks out,
the white sclera
upset by folly,
the nail driven in,
horny in front of the step
 haughty
to the declamatory gesture
 (and to the pompous stream
 of a muleta)
 - air burnt
 in the severity of death -
the boot thundering
 to the hiperbolic sign
 of the veronica,
 a stretched forth cape
 and dismal the turn
 embracing the arena.

Convulsive furies,
 angular
and frenzies of gestures,
 swift and long
 dieing out
 in nonchalance
 of emphatic poses
 with fastened rustles.
Conceited, the cautious leaps.

III

Flights are crossing,
a loving wing shivers
and shakes together
epilepsies of death.
Feminine graces
under arrays of clouds,
enervating patterns,
masculine
in the resolute look
of ineluctable dances.

IV

It opens
 the bull's appearance
initiation ceremonies
and fertility's feasts
and nuptial liturgies

two faces that whirl
turned in opposite directions
and the inversion of sexes:
triumphant glance
fixed and mysterious;
sponsus and sponsa,
the double.

Hermaphrodite
androgynous fusion
- a mantilla and, black, the montèra³, together
tight calzoncillos and the pollera
coloured and wavy -
stunned hero
by burning longing,
dragged away
like a light woman
on points of satin⁴,
the arms flung
around the neck
res bina
swinging oscillation
yearning the other half.

Tauromachies
of love and death,
you, that give birth to a Minotaur
enclosed in the palatine spaces
of a maze,
palace of the two-edged axes,
solar the minoan owl.

V

Europe, beautiful,
deflowered by the panting bull
wild the glance
that does not see
and the obscene sneer
but in the body already the soul of a man
androgynous the sex:
an albatross that throbs
and the spasm also, of turgor

Europe crossed,
the soil pregnant by two knowledges
wisdoms of guttural languages
introvert Magreb,
the embattled castles
of dreamy moors
and an expert tzigane life.
Kabyle dances

³ Headgear of the bullfighter

⁴ Dancing-shoes

enclosed in the mountains of Atlante
and berber rigmaroles, muddled
to the moaning of a gusla:
the mediterranean wheats
that the right hand mixes
to the saracen ones
and an hellenic harp.

And behind India that knows,
origin of the languages:
the convivial officiating
of a sanskrit rite
of consonances

oh, land crossed,
that chased the sun.

* Every one voice corresponds to a different tabulation.