International Poetry Recital 2017

Poet= Jorge Enrique Adoum (Ecuador)

Spanish- El perseguido  
  
¿Es posible que esto sea toda  
la historia, solo un día? ¿Una noticia  
de ayer, perdida en la penúltima  
página, la cotización caída ?  
  
Te cobran por la fuerza, los arriendos  
vencidos de la tierra, te cobran por las cosas  
que tu lámpara hizo agonizar a puro nimbo  
y por el corazón y sus jóvenes bestias  
que pacen suspirando:

la pólvora, tu amante,  
se sacude las manos: "asunto concluido".  
  
Ya eres el que ibas a ser, el mismo polvo  
del que algo te aliviaba tu cepillo de ropa.  
Cumpliré tus encargos, sigo siendo  
el que eras. Ave de paso. Animal profético.  
  
Salud, ángel de paso, irremediablemente intacto.

*De "Los cuadernos de la tierra" (IV)  1952 – 1962*

English Translation

Is it possible that this is the entire  
story, a single day? Yesterday's news,  
lost in the next-to-last page,  
the drop in shares?  
  
They forcibly charge you the overdue  
rent for the land, they charge you for the things  
your lamp drove to death by the sheer power of its   
[halo,  
and for the heart and its young beasts  
that graze while sighing:  
gun powder, your   
[lover,  
shakes its hands: 'Case closed.'  
  
You are already the one you would be, the same   
[dust of which  
you were somewhat relieved by your clothes brush.  
I will do as you ask; I am still the one you were.  
Wandering bird. Prophetic beast.   
  
Hail, wandering angel, irretrievably intact.

From “Los cuadernos de la tierra” (IV) 1952-1962



Supporting Materials

Jorge Enrique Adoum is an Ecuadorian poet who wrote this poem during a time where he lived abroad in countries where poverty was common. I chose to recite this poem because I recently returned from a study abroad trip to Ecuador where I learned about the poet’s role in Ecuadorian history.