

(38) the broken fountain (38)

*Oblong, its juttred ends rounding into circles,
The old sunken basin lies with its flat, marble lip
An inch below the terrace tiles.
Over the stagnant water
Slide reflections:
The blue-green of coned yews;
The purple and red of trailing fuchsias
Dripping out of marble urns;
Bright squares of sky
Ribbed by the wake of a swimming beetle.
Through the blue-bronze water
Wavers the pale uncertainty of a shadow.
An arm flashes through the reflections,
A breast is outlined with leaves.
Outstretched in the quiet water
The statue of a Goddess slumbers.
But when Autumn comes
The beech leaves cover her with a golden counter-pane.*

Amy Lowell

(1919)

(39) if i die on the road (39)

*Si muero en la carretera no me pongan flores.
If I die on the road lay me no flowers.*

*Si en la carretera muero no me pongan flores.
If on the road I die lay me no flowers.*

*En la carretera no me pongan flores si muero.
On the road lay me no flowers if I die.*

*No me pongan si muero flores en la carretera.
Lay me not if I die flowers on the road.*

*No me pongan en la carretera flores si muero.
Lay me not on the road flowers if I die.*

*No flores en la carretera si muero me pongan.
Do not flowers on the road if I die put me.*

*No flores en la carretera me pongan si muero.
No flowers on the road if I die lay me.*

*Si muero no flores en la carretera me pongan.
No flowers on the road lay me if I die.*

*Si flores me muero en la carretera no me pongan.
If flowers I die on the road lay me not.*

*Flores si muero no en la carretera me pongan.
Flowers if I die not on the road lay me.*

*Si flores muero pongan en me la no carretera.
If flowers I die lay on me the not road.*

(1970/2020)

Virgilio Piñera

Flores si pongan muero me en no la carretera.
Flowers if lay I die me on not the road.

Muero si pongan flores la en me en carretera.
I die if lay flowers the on me on road.

La muero en si pongan no me carretera.
The I die on if lay not me road.

Si flores muero pongan en me la no carretera.
If flowers I die lay on me the not road.

Flores si pongan muero me en no la carretera.
Flowers if lay I die me on not the road.

Si muero en las flores no me pongan en la carretera.
If I die on the flowers lay me not on the road.

Si flores muero no me pongan en la carretera.
If flowers I die lay me not on the road.

Si en la carretera flores no me pongan si muero.
If on the road flowers lay me not if I die.

Si en el muero no me pongan en la carretera flores.
If on the I die lay me not on the road flowers.

II

Voy en cacharrito, en una cafetera,
going in a rust bucket, in a tin heap,

yo voy por la carretera;
I'm going on the road;



yo voy, voy yendo por la carretera.
I'm going, getting going on the road.

Yo voy a un jardín de flores que está por la carretera,
I'm going to a flower garden that is by the road,

yo voy en un cacharrito, en una cafetera,
I'm going in a rust bucket, in a tin heap,

voy a comprarles flores a mis muertos,
going to buy flowers for my dead,

pero no me pongan flores si muero en la carretera.
but lay me no flowers if I die on the road.

III

Si muero en la carretera me entierran en el jardín
If I die on the road, bury me in the garden

que está por la carretera, pero no me pongan flores,
that is by the road, but lay no flowers for me.

cuando uno tiene su fin yendo por la carretera
When one meets their end on the road

a uno no le ponen flores de ése ni de otro jardín.
one has no flowers laid for them from that or any other garden.

IV

Si muero, si no muero,
If I die, if I don't die,

si muero porque no muero.
If I die because I don't die.

si no muero porque muero.
If I don't die because I die.

Si muero en la carretera.
If I die on the road.

Si no muero pero en la carretera si muero.
If I don't die but on the road I do die.

Si muero porque no muero en la carretera.
If I die because I don't die on the road.

Si no muero porque muero en la carretera,
If I don't die because I die on the road.

no me pongan f, no me pongan l, no me pongan o,
Lay me no f, lay me no l, lay me no o,

no me pongan r, no me pongan e, no me pongan s,
Lay me no w, lay me no e, lay me no r, lay me no s.

no me pongan flo, no me pongan res,
Lay me no flo, lay me no wers,

si muero en la c.
If I die in the r.

1

During a walk in my future neighborhood I come across a small shop, a one-man enterprise—a mattress manufacturer. The shop is called GREEK STROM. Strom as an abbreviation for στρόμα (stróma) which means mattress. I immediately appreciate the triviality of the shop's naming the moment I see it. Soon I need to buy a mattress, and I already know: This will be the place.

The trivial moment lasts only for a second. How can I ignore *Strom*? In German *Strom* is the word for *electricity* and also *stream*. It describes fluid matter, flowing particles moving in one direction like a major river, or electricity. GREEK STREAM? GREEK ELECTRICITY? Anyway, both are great identities for a mattress shop. But why GREEK? I'm already in Greece, so why is it important to tell me again? It appears that Greece might be the origin of production. But how I understand it, in this case *Greek* points more to a certain way of fabrication. It says that this is a place where mattresses are fabricated in a certain Greek manner or technique. That might be true. But pointing to fabrication in this way doesn't mean that mattresses are the only thing that are being fabricated here. False statements and fake text is fabricated, GREEK STROM is a story made up to persuade people to buy, one could say. I think to fabricate a false statement is bad, but the fabrication of meaning never seems fake. A fabricated story still is a story, no? This is the beginning of a story.

I decide to have a look inside the shop. A middle-aged man comes forward and asks me how he could help. The shape of his back shows that he has already lifted many mattresses from here to there in his life. He has pearls of sweat on his forehead and he calls himself the mattress maker.

I start talking with him. The mattress maker offers the mattresses according to the customers' requirements and he explains that, above all, it's the size of the mattress that determines the pricing and there are certain models that differ in hardness and materials used. The body would always be a structure of spiral springs.