

The Golfer's Discourse

by Ernesto Livon Grosman

tr. K. A. Kopple

Of the origin in question
they say to her they say
are they - now are they - were they?
from another voice surfaces this time
goes forward and other
times makes the question
inquire as to an answer
approaching to surprise
 the neighbors sees them coming
the neighbors feel alarmed and form doubts
the debts exhaust themselves and form inquisitors
once upon a time we were Ukranians, Romanians, Germans, dwarves
with time we became
nevertheless you don't or it or understand
the Charruas to the distant eye
the inquisitor at the raised hand's perspective
looking for the ginkos your merciful ones lost against the sound of
the water
an extinction, the ginko's, that foretells others, the ego's?
and the only member of an entire half a family
of whom but only one best sees the relation,

El Discurso Del Golfista by Ernesto Livon Grosman #11 p.34

La pregunta es por el origen\le dicen ella le dicen \¿son — están — fueron?\de otra voz surge esta vez\se adelanta y otras\veces hacen a la pregunta\inquirir para una respuesta\se acercan por sorpresa\se los veía venir\los vecinos\los vecinos se alarman y formulan dudas\los deudos se agotan y formulan inquisidores\en un principio éramos ucranianos, rumanos, germanos, enanos\con el tiempo devenimos\sin embargo usted no o lo o entiende\los charrúas en el ojo ajeno\el inquisidor en la perspectiva a mano alzada\que buscar ginkos que sus mercedes perdieron contra el sonido de\la\una extinción, la del ginko, que presagia otras, ¿la del ego?\y es el único miembro de toda una media familia\que mejor único que aquel que ve la red,

undistracted
the cloud on the wooden table
holes filled with monks planting
the side of a road that, who waters?
in the origin there's more than one name, two at least

Maidenhair, coriander or...
in the beginning there are names
almost superfluous to describe them
when they can be observed so easily
and their properties being as familiar as they are
nevertheless they confuse, confuse us
the fragility of our names
is the fog of our confusion?
there is an end, no names
Linus saying so long passes by
in a hurry
we haven't had time to respond

I

let him open, the space opens
pushes the walls of earth
the gaps of light don't leave
room for the mountain

a leafy bottomless gap
all within

que no se distrae\la nube en la mesa de madera\agujeros llenos de monjes plantadores\orilla de un camino que ¿quién riega?\en el origen hay más de un nombre, por lo menos dos\Maidenhair, culantrillo o ...\en el comienzo hay nombres,\casi superfluo describirlos\cuando se pueden observar con tanta facilidad\y sus propiedades son tan conocidas como lo son\sin embargo se los confunde, se nos confunde\la fragilidad de nuestros nombres\¿es la niebla de nuestra confusión?\hay final, no nombres\Lineo nos dice adiós al pasar\con la velocidad\no hemos tenido la oportunidad de responder\¿dejar que él abra, se abra al espacio\empujar las paredes de tierra\los agujeros de la luz que no dejan\lugar para la montaña\un agujero frondoso sin fondo\todo adentro

without or empty
 the... constructing in the plain that included
 very old mountains
 (not sacred, what makes a sacred mountain is on the other side
 of waters that we cross but forget)
 after coming out of a dream without any more they realized that what
 was, that what that, moved with them
 was the mountains at the side of the cloud
 the deer below
 the window a small smudge against the air
 taking care of the great shutters in the wind
 agitating the eucaliptus
 stirring the chimney in the rear
 there's no possible distortion that isn't work
 or a task done, inadvertently completed
 without mark *or its absence*
 a stream surrounding the habitat
 planting what wasn't
 taking more than twenty years
 painting against nature
 a ceaseless moment... tiring
 Never entirely at ease
 he said to the maid
 "I plant eucaliptus so the swimmers will have shade"

sin o vacío\la... construir en la llanura que incluía\montañas viejísimas\ (no sagradas, que
 lo que hace una montaña sagrada está al otro\lado\de una agua, la cruzamos pero nos olvi-
 damos)\después de salir de un sueño sin resto ni se dieron cuenta\que lo habían, que lo que,
 se movía con ellos\eran las montañas a lomo de nube,\los ciervos abajo\una pequeña man-
 cha la ventana contra el aire\cuidar de los postigones en el viento\soliviantar el
 eucalipto\revolver la chimenea en el fondo\no hay distorsión posible que no sea trabajo\o
 simplemente otro trabajo\o una tarea hecha, inadvertidamente cumplida\sin marca «or its
 absence»\un arroyo alrededor del hábitat\plantó lo que no estaba\tomó más de veinte
 años\pintar contra la naturaleza\un momento que no cesa.... cansa\Nunca acostumbrado del
 todo\le dijo a la sirvienta:\“siembro eucaliptos para que los bañistas tengan sombra”

A gesture against the grain
against the grass, when it's not growing well.

They came looking for him late
found him drinking coffee next to the car
smoking with a farmhand who works in the sheds

this isn't easy
no it isn't
in this and that year (...)
a type
there
on an island
there far away
created a game
they play it in a different way
the other plays it
here,
on the green
between the benches
not between me
between him
a destiny
the same old destiny

a game I believe
is watched
without chance
not a cause

Un gesto contra pelo\contra pasto, cuando está mal\Lo vinieron buscando tarde\lo encontraron tomando café al lado del auto\fumando con un peón que trenza en los galpones\esto no es fácil\no es\en tal y cual año (...)\un tipo\allá\en una isla\allá lejos\construye un juego\lo juegan de otra manera\el otro juega\aquí,\en los greens\entre bancos\entre mí\entre él\un destino\el mismo destino\un juego creo\que se mira\sin azar\entre una causa

but an identity
another origin

in a beginning
 some are golfers
 artists
 baptists

what a descent that of the golfer's
that ascent without touching the little thing
that holds up the ball
... that discourse! that of this guy
it's not just, nor logical, nor enough
it's not a discourse but a point of view
that the house still hasn't been fixed
distractions of the origin that haven't end nor solution
since then he couldn't make it up the hill to the restaurant
and said that in this country what
is needed

 doesn't

 e

 x

 i

 s

 t

 anymore

 (it's only a point of view)

sino una identidad\otro origen\\en un principio\algunos son golfistas\artistas\bautistas\\que
descenso el del golfista\que ascenso sin tocar el cosito ese que sostiene la pelota\j...discurso
ese! el del tipo este\no es justo, ni lógico ni suficiente\no es discurso sino un punto de
vista\que la casa aun no ha sido reparada\distracciones por el origen que no tienen fin ni
arreglo\desde que ya no podía subir la cuesta del restaurante\y decía en este país lo que se
necesita\no\ex\i\s\t\e\ya más\\(es sólo un punto de vista)

II

*Don't mix things up more
or you lose
Leonidas Lamborghini*

finding yourself lost
finding yourself green
outside the house
you go to the sheds
you mix more and more up
with those things
of that kind over there in the distance
here the women to the north and
to the south of the terrain a book of notes
a list against all losing oneself
beside the firewood,
 more firewood,
 a pack of cigarettes in three days
 a long discourse about the economy
 two hours
 a map of the subway systems,
 discussing the housing in Harlem
 or before Harlem
 or after the park
 stories of and by the mail

II\\No mezclés más las cosas\\o te perdés\\Leónidas Lamborghini\\te perdés\\te verdés\\en las afueras de la casa\\te vas para los galpones\\te mezclás más y más\\con las cosas de este\\tipo allá al fondo\\acá las mujeres al norte y\\al sur del terreno un libro de notas\\una lista contra todo perderse,\\al costado de la leña,\\más leña,\\una caja de cigarros en tres días\\una larga perorata sobre la economía\\dos horas\\un mapa del sistema de subterráneos,\\discutir sobre la vivienda en Harlem\\o antes de Harlem\\o después del parque\\historias de y por correo

.....
 Ah! don't leave us golfer
 a chorus of wives say
 and not because of a little appearance
 or much playing around
 desperation about what hangs powerless
 among the little mountains of golfers
 powerless,
 idiots
 retards
 hands full
 running after a little ball they scarcely see
 now that there aren't any heroes to kill,
 ranchers cross the sea of cows
 let's do it
 let's do it for tomorrow we die
 ___ it's a lovely country
 ___ this is my country
 my country club

.....
 wandering about to see him move
 in and out of the light
 let in by the recently opened doors
 emptying one ashtray after another
 10 am in the sound of a truck that passes en route when it
 has

.....\“Ah! no nos dejes golfista”\dice un coro de
 esposas\y no por poca desaparición\ni mucha monta\desesperación del que cuelga sin
 poder\entre montañas de golfistas\sin poder,\idiotas\retardados\las manos llenas\persiguiendo una pelotita que casi no ven\como ya no hay héroes que matar,\alimentadores de vacas\cruzan el mar de vacas\la coger\la coger que se chocan las Europas__es un país hermoso...__this is my country,\my country club\.....\
 hacer el peregrinaje para verlo moverse\dentro y fuera de la luz\que entra con la excusa de los postigones recién abiertos\que vacía un cenicero detrás de otro\10 am en el sonido de un camión que pasa en la ruta cuando se\ha

been waiting for sunrise since 6 and she says
 Hi Dear! Would you like a mate?
 Iforgotyoudon'ttakesugarthey'rebiscuitsonthetable
 at noon he searches for his the temperature, water, tank of the
 light they look for its point of overflow 2pm deliberating about where to go
 3pm get wood 4pm coffee 5pm mate 6pm trip into town
 to the countrystore
 first warming up the trip
 the conversation drinks up while
 we stop at the bank
 to see the creek rise
 to the countrystore
 we don't move
 turn down the radio
 look at the river
 bread/wine/cigarettes/newspaper)
 in the countrystore
 (meat/diesel/cheese/biscuits)

.....

Dear Father I tell you that
Why do you always "run" to the post-office?
 I want you to know that you seem heavier
 short, forgetful, right-handed, worse at making tea, better ... etc.

estado esperando el amanecer desde las 6 y ella dice\pasá querido ¿querés un
 mate?\meolvidabaquetomásinazucaralláenlamesatenésgalletael mediodía busca su la tem-
 peratura, el agua, el tanque de\la\luz buscan su punto de llenado 2pm deliberar hacia
 donde ir\ 3pm traer leña 4pm café 5pm mate 6pm viaje al pueblo\al estanco\precalenta-
 do el viaje\la conversación se abreva mientras\ paramos a la orilla\para ver subir el
 arroyo\hacia el estanco\no nos movemos\bajamos la radio\miramos el río\pan/vino/cigarri-
 llos/diario)\en el estanco\carne/diesel/queso/galletitas)\.....
 \Querido Papá te cuento que\Why do you always "run" to the post-office?\Quiero que
 sepas que te encontré más gordito,\petiso, olvidadizo, diestro, peor cebador, mejor...etc.

The psychologist discharged either me or her
Would you sell everything? And then?
 It's as though you were physically close and distant
 as if you were physically And spiritually
 we are left more uncertainties
It is like somebody coming back from a long trip
I think that it's not a family
I think I don't have any family
 These days we all sleep inside
 Waiting for snapshots, of You, yours, goodbye

with summer gone
 we all want to see them
 they never cease looking at th
 we don't know when

You forgot a card
 A book behind the bed

Please send catalogue,
including listings on anthropology,
psychology,
baseball
and sports literature, aikido
t'ai chi chu'uan, holistic health and general medicine,
embryology, midwifery, karate, and alchemy. No charge
if included with order. 75C separately.

A mí o a ella la psicóloga nos dio de alta\Would you sell everything? And then?\Es como si
 estuvieras cerca físicamente y lejos\como si fueras físicamente Y espiritualmente\nos van
 quedando más incertidumbres\It is like somebody coming back from a long trip\I think that
 it's not my family\I think I don't have any family\En estos días todos dormimos
 adentro\Espérons fotos, de Ustedes, suyos, afuera\con la ida del verano\todos queremos
 verlos\no dejen de mirar en l\que no sabemos cuando\ Te olvidaste una tarjeta\Un libro
 detrás de la cama>Please send catalogue,\including listings on anthropology,\psychology,\
 baseball\and sports literature, aikido,\t'ai chi chu'uan, holistic health and general
 medicine,embryology, midwifery,karate, and alchemy. No charge if included with order.
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A force where nature
is a second intuition

the mass of property
security in one's pocket

lost
in empty constructions

in houses full

I believe that I've now given
a brief account

an idea of our life
kisses,

Buenos Aires isn't Europe
Brooklyn in a bathrobe
Sierra de la Ventana isn't Buenos Aires
better yet the province with distance in between
the sierras, there were many years in between
among us, elevations throughout the trip
at the surprise of returning to see them rise up one understands
that absence brings the surprise back
I could pay my rent and once I lent him
money
a city in the south he was taken to
by car

Una fuerza donde la naturaleza es una segunda intuición\la unidad de la propiedad\soltura
en el bolsillo\pérdida en construcciones vacías\en casas llenas\creo que ya hice un
pequeño relato\una idea de nuestra vida\besos.\Buenos Aires no es Europa\Brooklyn en
robe de chambre\Sierra de la Ventana no es Buenos Aires\mejor la provincia con distancia
de por medio\las sierras, había muchos años de por medio\entre nosotros, elevaciones a lo
largo del viaje\la sorpresa de volver a ver-las asomar se entiende\que la ausencia nos
devuelve la sorpresa\podía pagar mi alquiler y una vez le presté\plata\una ciudad al sur de
la sierra lo llevaba en\auto

investing in the purchase wasn't a
 waste
 he looked at her looking at a horizon of clouds
 and trucks
 someone had to tend the fire and close the
 windows
 we waited for playtime, to play
 dice

a foot sleeps
 without much effort
 looking at reality through only one eye
 and before they both shut
 it's another trip
 a silence
 on your birthday

Movement, he who watches

The absence of snow
 has taken away the ice

the pool water
 is a game played by children
 for othered
 children

fire xxxinxxx arms
 a principle cause

la inversión de la compra no fue un desperdicio\la miraba a ella que miraba un horizonte de
 nubes y camiones\alguien tenía que alimentar el fuego y cerrar las ventanas\esperábamos la
 hora de jugar, de los\dados\un pie se resfala\sin mucha presión\mira a la realidad de un ojo
 sólo\y antes que se cierran los dos\es otro viaje\un silencio\en su cumpleaños\Movimiento,
 el que mira\\La ausencia de nieve\se ha llevado el hielo\\el agua de la pileta\es un juego de
 niños\\para otros niños\\.....ados\\fuegos xxxenxxx brazos\un primer motivo

mechanism of something
in the terrain deserted because of winter

a regiment of trees
passes by

there is no visible story
only

on this parcel of land
where you're poorly stopped

paternity leaves
behind

ahead
"so much water"
an archiplication
lakes

motor de algo\en el terreno desierto por el invierno\\pasa un regimiento\de árboles\\no hay
historia visible\sólo\en este pedazo de terreno\donde estás mal parado\\la paternidad
deja\por detrás\ por delante\\tanta agua""un archipliegue\lagos

I looked back
from my cabin door,
to where he would close the door
and I was left outside
and said,
“this is it, it’s over,
there’s no more now.”
If I don’t move in the door. . .
if the door doesn’t move
but an owl appeared from among the beams
When I return home
not to this one (which I have yet to open)
nor the one in the city so far away
no, nor to the other one in which I no longer live
but the one near the river
before I moved to the one so close
that resisting is only common sense
(before I return to the country)
when I get home I am going to write
several times, one over another
over the other.
I went in, left the door open

Miré hacia atrás\desde la puerta de mi cabaña,\hacia donde él cerraba la puerta\y me quedé afuera\y dije:\”esto es todo, se acabó,\ya no más.”\Si no me muevo en la puerta,\si la puerta no se mueve...\pero un búho salió de entre las vigas\Cuando vuelva a mi casa,\no a esta (que aun no abro)\ni tampoco a la de esta ciudad tan lejos\no, no tampoco a la otra en la que ya no vivo\sino a la que está cerca del río,\antes de que me mude a la que está tan cerca\que resistir es sólo sentido común\(\ante de que vuelva a la frontera)\cuando vuelva a casa lo voy a escribir\varias veces, una sobre otra\sobre la otra.\Entré, dejé la puerta abierta