



Painting by Higorca Gómez Carrasco

Casida* of the thirsty

I am the sand of the desert
a desert of thirst.
Your mouth is an oasis
where I cannot drink.

Mouth: oasis open
to all the sand of the desert.

A humid point in the midst
of a scorching world,
the one of your body, your body,
which never belongs to both of us.

Body: a well closed
for whom thirst and sun have scorched.

MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ (1910 – 1942)

Translation: Germain Droogenbroodt

From: *Cancionero y romancero de ausencias*, 1942

Casida del sediento // Arena del desierto / soy, desierto de sed. / Oasis es tu boca / donde no he de beber. // Boca: Oasis abierto / a todas las arenas del desierto. // Húmedo punto en medio / de un mundo abrasador / el de tu cuerpo, el tuyo, /que nunca es de los dos. // Cuerpo: pozo cerrado / a quien la sed y el sol han calcinado.

* *Casida*, Arabic poetic form. This is the last poem of Hernández, written in the prison of Ocaña, May 1941. He died of pneumonia in the prison of Alicante during the dictatorship of Franco

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