Translating Ecuadorian Literature:

A la Costa by Luis A. Martínez

Master's dissertation written by

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MASTERS IN PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATION

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I. Introduction

When I first arrived in Ecuador in 1999, I was struck by its stunning landscapes. My time there began in the capital, Quito, which sits nearly two miles above sea level and yet is surrounded by colossal, snow-capped volcanoes. I next made a trip down to the coast, a journey which truly revealed Ecuador's nature as a land of incredible contrasts: from icy peaks to muggy tropical plains, rugged mountains to mangrove wetlands. These same landscapes form the backdrop for the novel which this dissertation focuses on. But Ecuador's contrasts are not in landscape only. Like much of Latin America, the country demonstrates economic extremes as well, from *campesinos* who live off the land, to multimillionaires who own massive plantations or export businesses. This inequality is not new; in fact, Martínez spends much of his book lamenting the social disparities Ecuador faced over a century ago.

It is my desire that this translation project will bring Martínez 's work, as well as Ecuadorian literature in general, to a broader audience. My years spent in Ecuador have given me a great love for its uniquely beautiful people, culture, and landscapes; through this translation project, I hope to share that beauty with the rest of the world.

This master's dissertation represents my first foray into translating Ecuadorian literature. My assigned task for this project was to translate the first seven chapters of *A la Costa*, a novel by Ecuadorian author Luis A. Martínez . Martínez was born in 1869 and lived through some of the more turbulent years in Ecuador's history. *A la Costa* has been called the best Ecuadorian novel up to its time (Sacoto 1998: 96) and yet is virtually unknown outside of Ecuador. The novel is set in the late nineteenth century, a time when a new class of young liberals posed challenges to Ecuador's post-colonial conservative government. The characters in the novel embody various aspects of that society and the political and economic upheaval of that time. Its genre has been described as one bridging the gap between Romanticism and Realism (Rodriguez Castelo 2006: 26). The narrator alternates between vivid descriptions of scenery, characters, and locations, and a commentary, sometimes scathing, on the culture and customs of his people.

II. Business Aspects of the translation

The structure of this dissertation was designed to simulate a real-world translation project. The possible dissertation options were posted as assignments, and the translator sent in a proposal and rates. The job as posted was to translate Latin American literature into English, with Laura Esquivel being a proposed author.

1. Communication

For the initial sessions and correspondence, my communication with my tutor simulated that of a business relationship. I provided my CV and a cover letter expressing my interest. I then received a reply from Dr. Teixeira offering the assignment to me, and I happily accepted. At our first meeting, I was informed that the proposed text was *Como agua para chocolate*, but he was willing to consider alternate texts.

I preferred to translate a work that did not yet exist in English, and so I examined my personal collection for options. Due to the extensive time I have spent in Ecuador, I have an affinity for that Andean country and have collected several titles by Ecuadorian authors. After considering my options, I proposed *A la costa*. Acting in the role of a publisher, Dr. Teixeira accepted the proposal, and we determined that the first seven chapters would be sufficient for this dissertation.

2. Budget

While this dissertation was done for academic purposes, the simulated business relationship was designed to help students gauge the profitability of translation work. The proposed rate was fifteen euros a page, assuming 2,100 characters per page. The final translation consisted of 59,303 characters, or 28.25 pages. At the proposed rate the payment for this task would be 424 euros. The translation consisted of 10,286 words, so the per word rate would come out to 0.04 euros a word. As a judiciary interpreter and translator, my court work pays a minimum of US $0.20 a word, which is close to five times the rate proposed for this literary translation. At the writing of this dissertation,

the exchange rates between dollars and euros is so close that I feel they can be compared 1:1. I also do not find literary translation significantly easier or faster than judiciary translation. If the rates simulated for this dissertation reflect current market rates, it would not make sense for me to pursue it as a key aspect of my income. I anticipate my future literary translation projects would either need to pay a rate comparable to what I earn doing judiciary work, or else serve purposes other than economic gain.

III. Accessing the source text

1. Physical copy

The primary copy of the source text which I used is a paperback copy that I purchased on a previous trip to Ecuador. I in fact have two editions, one published by Sigma Editores and another by Velázquez & Velázquez. The one by Velázquez proved to be a more dependable resource; I found too many typographical errors in the Sigma edition, and the quality of the binding made it less satisfactory. The Velázquez & Velázquez edition had the added benefit of substantial introductory content written by Hernán Rodríguez Castelo, 50 pages of background and analysis of the novel.

2. Audio Version

I also made use of a free audio version of the book on YouTube posted by an account called Adiolibros Ecuador. The quality of this audiobook left something to be desired; it seemed to have been produced by a computer reading a somewhat imperfect copy of the text. I found it amusing to hear the computerized voice attempting to pronounce the Roman numerals such as XIX. Despite these shortcomings, however, this audiobook allowed me to consume the book while driving. My work as a court interpreter often requires me to drive for many hours a day, and I was able to make good use of that travel time to familiarize myself with the full text. While this dissertation only deals

with the translation of the first seven chapters, I wanted to take into account the full narrative flow of the novel. When I reached the end, the poignant finale brought me to tears and I am now resolved to complete a translation of the full work at a future point.

3. PDF Version

I also wanted an electronic copy of the text. Firstly, I wanted a digital copy to email to my tutor/publisher so he could evaluate the proposed text for approval. Further, as the intended final product was a bilingual parallel edition, I much preferred to copy and paste than to manually type the full novel. The first PDF I found was by the Biblioteca Universal, and I sent it as an email attachment to Dr. Teixeira. Once the project was approved and I began translating the text, I attempted to copy and paste from that PDF, but discovered that it was protected. I then downloaded a second PDF from the Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana. While this one was not protected, it was a low-quality scan of a physical book, and the OCR left many errors in the text. In the end, I went back to the original protected PDF and used Google Docs to extract the text.

The time used in converting file formats and dealing with low quality scans was significantly more than I anticipated, and is a potential challenge that professional literary translators should bear in mind when anticipating the time required to complete a translation.

IV. Tools used

I used a number of tools to assist in my translation. Rather than give an exhaustive list of every resource applied to the project, I will highlight the tools I found most useful and which I utilized most frequently.

1. Dictionaries

The *Diccionario de la Real Academia Española* (DRAE) is considered the definitive lexicon for Spanish. I made use of both a physical copy, the *Diccionario esencial de la lengua española,* 2006 edition, as well as the online version. The online version is also

available as a phone application, which I find very useful when reading a physical copy of the source text.

I also made great use of *El habla del Ecuador: diccionario de ecuatorianismos*, by Carlos Joaquín Córdova Malo. I am fortunate to have a physical copy of this tome. I do not believe it is available for sale outside of Ecuador, and no libraries in my state or in a neighboring state have a copy. It was quite valuable for those Ecuadorian terms which are not in the DRAE, or which have a unique meaning within Ecuador.

2. *Online Resources*

In addition to the aforementioned online version of the DRAE, there were several web resources that proved quite handy. The first of those was a simple Google search. I have found that an excellent way to wrap my mind around an unfamiliar term is to simply perform a Google image search. This often gives me a sense of what ideas and concepts the term refers to and lets me consider what English word best captures the same meaning. While not completely infallible, this often gives a good visualization of the referent.

Another excellent online tool is Reverso Context (https://context.reverso.net/translation/). This tool lets me see how a word or term has been translated within the context of the sentence that contains it, which is often very helpful for choosing between possible synonyms or words that can change meaning depending on the context.

3. *Reference Materials*

Beyond looking up specific words, I also found it useful to understand the context of the author and the novel in question. My physical copy of the source text includes excellent introductory material by Hernán Rodríguez Castelo (1933-2017), a member of the Academia Ecuatoriana de la Lengua. His brief biography of the author and description of the setting was invaluable to me, and perhaps a complete translation of the full novel should also include a translation of his commentary or at least an equivalent scholarly introduction.

Dr. Antonio Sacoto's *Catorce novelas claves de la literatura ecuatoriana* was another excellent resource, as it has an entire chapter dedicated to analyzing the source novel. His analysis of the style and tone of the book was useful to me as I sought to achieve the same effect in the target language.

And, while not specific to the source text, I made great use of *Resumen de historia del Ecuador* by Enrique Ayala Mora. This brief reference text was perfect to keep on hand to look up the various historical figures mentioned.

While many might frown on Wikipedia for being unscholarly, I find it an excellent tool for comparing terminology between two languages. Looking up an article in the source language and then seeing what the same article has in the target language has often given me vocabulary or other terms that I would never find in a more traditional dictionary. For example, I do not think I would ever have realized that Luis Gonzaga is known in English as St. Aloysius without the use of Wikipedia.

4. Choice to not use translation software

Despite advances in technology, I made the conscious choice to avoid any form of translation software or computer-assisted translation (CAT). While I have found translation software tools useful when translating technical or informational texts, I have not been satisfied with its performance in regard to literary texts. In order to give myself better control of the tone, style, and general flavor of the text, I opted out of using an automatic translator and then post-editing. I believe that the extra time it took to translate actually saved time, as post-editing for tone and feel is tedious and frustrating.

Likewise, I did not make use of CAT tools. When I have translated a text that is more informational or technical, the segmenting and managing of repeated phrases can be very useful, as can the glossary. However, I find these benefits less useful when the text to be translated is literary and the goal is preserving literary style and artistic merit rather than merely communicating technical information.

For this translation, I created a document file with two columns, with the source text in the left hand column. I also created a new row for each chapter, and, as I translated, varied the spaces between paragraphs so that the translated paragraph and the original paragraph would start on the same line. This can be seen in appendix 1, where I kept that format and have the translation parallel to the original. This also allowed me to

use the search feature to go back and see how I had previously translated a given term or phrase, and then decide if I wanted to use the same English word, or if the context required a different translation. This gave me a benefit similar to what I would have received from an automatically generated glossary.

In retrospect, I also think this was also the correct choice in light of the difficulties with the PDF mentioned previously. In the past when I attempted to use computer-assisted translation with a poorly formatted source text, the errors seemed to multiply, with the segments not fitting actual sentences.

V. Language used in the source text

The language in which the source text is written is very much a product of its time in both vocabulary and style. I was able to maintain that to a degree by choosing an English translation with a similar feel. Other aspects, particularly the lexicon, required footnotes and additional explanation.

1. XIX Century Spanish

Luis A. Martínez definitely writes in the noble, elevated style typical of literature a century ago. Most noticeable among these is the use of enclitic pronouns with conjugated verbs, the very first sentence says “el doctor Jacinto Ramírez *habíase* puesto a trabajar en su escritorio” whereas modern Spanish would be more prone to say “el doctor Jacinto Ramírez *se había* puesto a trabajar en su escritorio” (Doctor Jacinto Ramirez had set to work at his desk before his accustomed hour). This structure is quite absent from modern Spanish. As I read the text and became familiar with the style of Martínez , the best way I found to describe it was somewhere between Charles Dickens and Mark Twain. While there is no equivalent enclitic in English, I sought to maintain the same flavor by trying to feel like an English language text from the same period.

2. Ecuadorianisms

The text is undoubtedly located in Ecuador, with numerous lexical items and historical details woven into the narrative. The chapters translated for this dissertation did not include dialogue in regional dialects, but later chapters (particularly those set in the coastal region) do reproduce local dialects. As I did not translate that within these chapters, I will not go into further detail on dialects within Ecuador.

3. Racial Language

One of the delicate aspects of this translation was the way in which the author discusses race. Many of the terms Martínez uses may sound harsh a hundred years later, especially to the North American reader. Even today it is much more culturally acceptable in Latin America to directly remark on someone's ethnicity and physical appearance than it is in North America. In fact, the topic of historically used racial terms is of such concern today that there have recently been reprints of classic works of children's literature edited to remove language that has come to be seen as offensive (Healy 2023). These sensibilities posed something of a challenge, as I fully intend to be true both to the author and to the target culture. Debates over the importance of "faithfulness" aside, I sought to neither editorialize nor sanitize the original text. My training as a judiciary interpreter stresses impartiality and the ethical duty to neither clean up or dress down the source language (González et all, 2012:1099). While I of course cannot know Martínez 's personal intentions, I do believe that in most of these cases, the language used was meant to neutrally identify categories of people whom twentieth-century Ecuadorians were well familiar with. Given the overall liberal slant of the narration, I do not believe it was the author's intention to use these terms in a pejorative sense. While in some cases some of his characters may reflect prejudices that he wished to denounce, in others it is the simple observation that since the earliest days of the colonial period what is now known as Ecuador has been a diverse, multi-cultural society. I will now discuss some of the specific racial descriptors used in the novel.

3.1 Indio

Unlike North America, where by and large the native populations were either eradicated or displaced, the indigenous people of Ecuador remained in place under

Spanish colonization. To this very day, in many of the highland provinces, a significant portion of the population speaks Kichwa, an indigenous language. According to Ecuador's most recent census, over half a million Ecuadorians speak Kichwa, and over a hundred thousand speak some other indigenous language (INEC 2022). I have translated *indio* as Indian, even though in the twenty-first century in North America it is more common to use the term Native American or First Nations. The author writes in the early twentieth-century, and I want my English rendition to be faithful to that time period.

3.2 Cuarterón

In the early colonial period, Ecuadorians were very concerned with labeling and classifying every racial combination that resulted from the mixing of European settlers, conquered indigenous peoples, and enslaved Africans. The RAE defines *cuarterón* as being a person with three-fourths Spanish ancestry and one-fourth indigenous. The word is not found in *El habla del Ecuador*, but from the context of the surrounding text, it seems clear that Martínez means the term to indicate African ancestry, or *cuarterón de mulato*. I have used the English equivalent *quadroon*, but also included a footnote.

3.3 Chagra

The RAE indicates that this is an Ecuadorian word meaning someone uneducated or provincial. According to *El habla del Ecuador* the word is of Kichwa origin and means "Campesino de la región interandina del Ecuador que no se identifica precisamente con el indio" (A peasant from the interandean region of Ecuador who is not precisely identified as an Indian) or "hombre inculto, rústico" (uncultured, rustic man) and goes on to note that it is particularly applied to those who were not born in the capital. (Córdova Malo 2019: 105) While the closest English word that occurs to me is "bumpkin," I have instead put a footnote with the first instance of this word and then used it as a borrowed word untranslated in the remainder of the text.

3.4 Cholo

According to the RAE, this word can either mean someone of mixed indigenous and European ancestry, or an indigenous person who takes on Western habits – "[q]ue adopta los usos occidentales" (DRAE). *El habla del Ecuador* has a much more

extensive entry tracing the use of the term, but the general concept is a person of low class and mixed ancestry who aspires to move up the social ladder (Córdova Malo 2019: 121). As this term is very specific to the Latin American context, I have opted to leave it untranslated but with a footnote.

3.5 Rubio

Salvador, the main character of the novel, is described as being *rubio*. Notably his sister is described as having the appearance of a *cuarterona*, so it is clear that neither can be of full European ancestry. While he is the main character, I am not sure the term protagonist is apt, as Salvador is also a very passive character. It is very interesting that Martínez pairs the most European of physical features with being sickly and meek. Perhaps here he seeks to undermine prejudices in favor of European features. I have translated *rubio* as *blonde*, and I hope that in doing so I am reflecting what I read as Martínez' intentional upturning of the prejudices in Ecuadorian society.

VI. Language used in the target text

1. Use of Saxon vs Romance Language

The English lexicon is peppered with sets of synonyms where one is of Anglo-Saxon origin and the other has Romance roots. While the history of the English language is beyond the scope of this project, it suffices to say that to an English speaker, the Saxon terms often have a more rustic, earthy feel (Chitty 2014:23), while the Romance terms (whether borrowed directly from Latin or coming through French) tend to feel more sophisticated and learned (Chitty 2014:24). For this reason I intentionally chose the Saxon terms when describing rural scenes, both in the first translation and again on revision.

Examples can be seen in the description of the mayhem wrought by the earthquake in Ibarra in the first chapter. Consider the phrase "al separar una enorme viga apareció el cadáver del padre con la cabeza partida" (as they pulled out an enormous beam, his father's body had appeared with his head split). It could be tempting to use the English cognate "separate" instead of "pull out," "cadaver" instead of body, and "parted" instead of "split;" however, I think the terms chosen better match the tone and flavor of the original text.

2. Shorter text: Saxon genitive

In formatting the parallel texts, I was struck by how often my translated paragraphs were significantly shorter than the source text. My initial thought was concern that I had skipped over sections or overly abbreviated. Upon closer review I realized that the more concise nature of English was to blame. While there was loss in characters on the page, there was no loss in content. The apostrophe + s construction, also known as the Saxon genitive, was one of the main causes of the disparity in length. In revising my translation, I then intentionally sought opportunities to use this structure, which allows for both a more concise text and a flow that feels more natural to the English reader.

3. Phrasal verbs

Another tendency of English is the use of phrasal verbs, particularly those with a preposition (Chitty 2014:5). While English often has a Latin-derived cognate for many Spanish verbs, there is frequently a Saxon-derived phrasal verb with the same meaning. In both the initial translation and its revision, I have intentionally sought to use these phrasal verbs. For example, in Chapter V, Salvador tells Luciano “es necesario que ya te formalices” (it’s time for you to put yourself in order) I opted for the phrasal ver *put in order* rather than *formalize*.

4. Problem words

There were a number of words which gave me particular difficulty in selecting an English equivalent. In all cases, my goal was to produce a readable source text without a lengthy explanation or odd phrase that would take the reader out of the story. The following is a discussion of some of these challenging words.

4.1 Hipocondría

In both modern English and Spanish, this term refers to a person who is excessively anxious about their health, always overreacting and assuming they have some serious or even fatal illness due to the most miniscule symptom. However, as used in the source

text, this word seems to have a broader meaning. Jacinto Ramirez, the first character we are introduced to, is described as suffering from *hypocondría*, but his stress seems to be broader than his physical health. He is worried about his family's financial situation, their future, and his children's well-being. I think that the modern term for this ailment is "anxiety"; however, I do not find that use of the word to be faithful to my goal of placing my translation in the same time period as the source text, and so I have opted to translate it literally as *hypochondria* and hope that from the context the reader will grasp the broader meaning.

4.2 Bachiller

As educational systems vary greatly from country to country, translating the names of degrees and academic levels can be a minefield of potential misunderstandings. The English term that first comes to mind is the cognate *bachelor's degree*. However in Ecuador, *bachillerato* is the degree received upon completing *colegio*. It might be tempting then to say that a bachelor's degree is the one received upon completing college, but despite the strong resemblance between the words, they are what could be called false friends, words that appear the same or similar, but which have very different meanings. *Colegio* in Ecuador refers to secondary school, so a *bachillerato* is a high school diploma. This is further evidenced by the text indicating that Salvador received this degree at the age of 18 and then went on to study law at the university. I have varied the English rendition of this term so that it flows with the surrounding text, but have chosen terms like *degree*, *graduate*, and *high school baccalaureate.*

4.3 Padre Lacámara

Among many of the references to contemporary persons, I encountered a reference to *Padre Lacámara*. Supposedly, the villainous Rosaura had learned philosophy from this priest. I searched my history books and online resources, but was unable to find any information on this illustrious father. Finally, it dawned on me: this was a wordplay. My English rendering of *Father Bedchamber* hopefully produces the same reaction in the target text.

4.4 Beata

Rosaura is referred to as a *Beata*, which literally means blessed or someone who the Vatican has endorsed as having the potential to become a canonized saint. While Rosaura may have been endorsed by Padre Lacámara, she was clearly no saint. Nor did it feel right to call her *blessed*. The RAE's third definition, "a very devout person who often frequents temples," seems to be what Martínez is alluding here. For that reason I chose to refer to her as a "church lady."

VII. Translation as an Exercise for Interpreters

While the framework for this master's dissertation has been that of a literary translation made for a publisher, I have also found what I have learned from this work to be useful in other contexts. Most of my professional work is as a court interpreter. I am the voice of judges and lawyers, who as a rule are highly educated. In the United States many lawyers study English or another humanities subject in undergrad before going to law school. This influences the way many lawyers speak, and all judges were once lawyers.

When translating a work of literature, the translator has all the time in the world to consult dictionaries, parallel texts, reference materials, or even just call a friend. Interpreters do not have that luxury; many court interpreters work using mainly simultaneous interpretation and must be ready on the fly.

I have found that translating literature has expanded my mental toolbox of terms and phrases for interpreting. I propose that interpreters would benefit from practicing literary translation in both directions with their working language as a way to expand both lexicon and phrases they can access while interpreting.

VIII. Further Work

In working on the project, I came to see just how little of Ecuador's rich literary heritage has been translated into English. I intend to complete the translation of the full novel into English and seek a publisher for it. Beyond that, a simple glance at my home library reveals multiple options for future projects. Perhaps my second foray will be in theatre. I have a volume with several works by Jore Icaiza, and while his novel

Huasipungo has been translated, I have not found any English translations of his plays. Or perhaps, taking inspiration from *A la costa*,I may look into the works of Juan Montalvo, which were so intensely debated by Martínez ’s characters. In any event, it seems clear that this project is but the first step of a much larger journey.

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X. Appendices

1. Source text with parallel translation

A la Costa, primera parte I Aquella mañana de agosto, clara y llena de sol, el doctor Jacinto Ramírez habíase puesto a trabajar en su escritorio antes de la hora acostumbrada. Sentado en un viejo sillón de vaqueta estampada, teniendo delante varios legajos de papeles amarillentos, y con su rostro enjuto, pálido y sombrío, y su larga barba gris, se asemejaba a los alquimistas de la Edad Media. Un rayo de alegre sol que entraba por una ventana abierta, iluminaba vivamente la figura del doctor, y dejando en una espesa penumbra lo demás de la habitación, daba a todo ese pequeño cuadro un aspecto casi fantástico.	To The Coast, Part One I That August morning, under a clear sky filled with sun, Doctor Jacinto Ramirez had set to work at his desk before his accustomed hour. Seated in an old leather easy chair, several bundles of yellowed papers in front of him, with his gaunt, pale, somber face and his long gray beard, he resembled a medieval alchemist. A beam of cheerful sunlight, coming in through an open window, brilliantly lit up the figure of the doctor, and left a thick shadow in the rest of the room, giving that small square a nearly otherworldly feel.

Profunda preocupación o tristeza contraía frecuentemente el rostro impasible del doctor. Algo como una idea penosa y pertinaz atormentaba su cerebro, porque a cada instante dejaba la pluma, volvía a tomarla, trazaba algunas palabras en el expediente que tenía delante, para volver otra vez a suspender el trabajo. Al fin abandonó el sillón y púsose a pasear lenta y maquinalmente por la larga y oscura sala, acariciándose con una mano de larga barba, los ojos distraídos y como sin vista clavados en el pavimento, señales todas de una grave preocupación.	Profound worry or sadness frequently tensed the doctor's stoic face. Something like a painful and stubborn idea tormented his brain, because he would constantly set down his pen, then take it back up, scribbling a few words in the file he had in front of him, only to stop work again. Finally he abandoned his chair and set to pacing slowly and mechanically through the long, dark room, stroking his beard with one hand, his eyes distracted and his sight glued to the floor, signs of serious concern.
Un instante paróse en el cuadro de luz que entraba por la ventana y fijó sus ojos en un ennegrecido retrato de cuerpo entero que se difuminaba en el fondo de la sala, contuvo un involuntario suspiro, y algo como una lágrima brilló en la mejilla iluminada vivamente por el sol. Volvió a inclinar la cabeza sobre el pecho, metió las manos en los bolsillos de largo paletó que llevaba, y continuó el interrumpido y monótono paseo.	For an instant he stood in the square of light that came in through the window, and fixed his eyes on the dark portrait of his full body that was cast at the end of the room, held back an involuntary sigh, and something like a tear shone on his cheek, brightly lit up by the sun. He again bowed his head to his chest, put his hands in the pockets of the long frock coat he had on, and continued his interrupted and monotonous pacing.

¿Qué era lo que atormentaba al doctor Jacinto Ramírez, abogado de Quito, en aquella mañana clara y soleada del mes de agosto? El recuerdo de una catástrofe espantosa, cuyos detalles rememoraban uno a uno como si se complaciera en ellos, era lo que le traía tan preocupado y abatido...

El 16 de agosto de 1868, veintidós años antes, Jacinto Ramírez era estudiante de quinto año de leyes en la Universidad de Quito. Para esa fecha había ya rendido con buena votación sus exámenes, y preparábase a marchar, para pasar las vacaciones, a Ibarra en donde vivía su familia, numerosa y considerada en el capital de Imbabura. Aquella noche dejóse sentir en Quito un terremoto fortísimo, que agrietó casas y echó al suelo algunas construcciones viejas y mal equilibradas: lo que fue temblor fuerte en Quito, en la rica provincia de Imbabura fue cataclismo formidable. A la tarde del 17 de agosto circuló en esa ciudad la inverosímil noticia de la destrucción de los numerosos pueblos. Ramírez, intranquilo ya desde la víspera por la suerte de los suyos, con la noticia traída

What tormented Doctor Jacinto Ramirez, attorney of Quito, that bright and sunny morning in the month of August? The memory of a ghastly catastrophe, whose details he remembered one by one as if indulging himself with them, were what had him so worried and dejected...

August 16, 1868, twenty-two years earlier, Jacinto Ramirez was a fifth-year law student at the University of Quito. By that date he had passed his exams with good marks, and was preparing to depart, to spend his vacation in Ibarra, where his family lived. They were numerous, and well-considered in the capital of Imbabura. That night there was felt in Quito a very strong earthquake, which left cracks in homes and knocked to the ground a few old, poorly-balanced structures: What was a strong tremor in Quito, in the rich province of Imbabura was a formidable cataclysm. The afternoon of August 17 the unbelievable news of the destruction of various towns in Imbabura circulated around Quito. Ramirez had been anxious since the night before as to the fortune of his people. With the

por un chagra de Otavalo, púsose violento y resolvió salir esa misma tarde para su tierra natal. Como concibió la idea, la realizó. Al anochecer del 17 galopaba en un mal caballo de alquiler, camino del Norte. Confusamente recordaba el doctor los detalles de ese viaje, tenía idea de casas resquebrajadas que a cada instante detenían la marcha de su cabello. ¿Caminó toda la noche? No lo recordaba, pero sí tenía aún en sus oídos el aullido de un perro vagabundo, en una loma; y en su retina el resplandor de una hoguera, en alguna choza cercana…	news brought by a *chagra*[1] from Otavalo, he made quick and resolved to leave that evening for his native land. No sooner had he conceived the thought than he carried it out. At dusk on the 17th he galloped forth on a rented nag, headed northward. The doctor confusedly recalled the details of that journey; he had the idea of crumbling or ruined houses that lined the road and of groups of bewildered people who constantly stopped his horse's progress. Did he ride all night? He couldn't remember, but still had in his ears the howling of a stray dog, on a hill, and in his retinas the blazing light of a bonfire from a nearby hut…
En la mañana del 18, después de pasar, no sabía cómo, los ríos sin puentes y los caminos convertidos en precipicios, dio vista a la provincia de Imbabura, a la que diez meses antes había dejado tan risueña y próspera. Como un alucinado, sin hacer gran caso de los pueblos y caseríos arruinados, y sin conmoverse con los alaridos salvajes de los sobrevivientes,	The morning of the 18th, after crossing, he knew not how, the rivers without bridges and the roads turned precipices, he laid eyes on the province of Imbabura, which ten months prior he had left cheerful and prosperous. Like a stunned man, without taking much account of the ruined towns and hamlets, unmoved by the savage howls of the survivors he walked,

[1] Chagra is an Ecuadorian word that means someone from the rural areas, bumpkin is one possible translation.

caminaba, caminaba, dando largos rodeos, con una especie de instinto maravillosos para salvar los abismos que a cada paso cortaban el camino. Al anochecer dio por fin vista a la llanura de Ibarra. ¿Por qué no enloqueció entonces? Lo que tenía delante de sus ojos era algo pero que las visiones terribles de la pesadilla. La gran campiña, sembrada antes de ciudades, pueblos y haciendas, estaba allí a su espantada vista, informe, monstruosa, como si en todo el territorio hubiera estallado una mina inmensa. Las casas eran montones fragmentarios de piedras, tejas pulverizadas y maderas reducidas a astillas. Algún arco de iglesia resquebrajado se levantaba todavía como gigante solitario. Los árboles mismos, los copudos nogales, las palmas, los sauces verdes, que daban a Ibarra un aspecto oriental, como si hubieran sido asolados por un ciclón furioso, estaban allí tronchados o arrancados de cuajo, las raíces al aire, asemejándose a tentáculos de pulpos gigantes. Las llanuras, ayer vedes, unidas, tersas como alfombras de terciopelo, surcadas estaban por anchas grietas de las que manaba, como la podredumbre de la tierra, un lodo viscoso y	walked, taking long detours, with a sort of wondrous instinct for avoiding the chasms that cut into the path at each step. At dusk he finally saw the immense plain of Ibarra. Why did he not go mad then? What he beheld in front of his eyes was something worse than the terrible visions of a nightmare. The wide countryside, which had been scattered with cities, towns, and estates, was there in his aghast sight: A monstrous report, as if across the whole territory an immense mine had blown up. The houses were piles of stone fragments, pulverized roof tiles, and beams reduced to splinters. The fissured arch of some church still stood, like a lonely giant. The very trees, leafy walnuts, palms, green willows, which gave Ibarra an Oriental feel, seemed to have been ravaged by a furious cyclone, and were all snapped or ripped up, roots in the air, looking like the tentacles of giant octopuses. The plateaus, once green, together, like a supple velvet carpet, were scattered with wide cracks, out of which gushed, like the decay of the earth, a thick, reeking mud. The tilled hills, which due to their hefty round shape had looked like the ample bosoms of generous

hediondo, y las tendidas lomas que por sus redondeces abultadas parecían antes los pechos de una naturaleza generosa, ahora estaban desgarradas por el azote, mostrando quebradas y precipicios rocas y peñascos, vacíos de la tierra fecunda.	nature, now were now tattered by the scourging, showing ravines and rocky cliffs and bluffs, barren of fertile soil.
Y luego, en medio de ese cuadro digno de las visiones del Apocalipsis, como natural cortejo de un mundo lacerado y herido de muerte, alaridos salvajes de los sobrevivientes que huroneaban los escombros; gritos ahogados entre las ruinas, pidiendo socorro; el ruido sordo de un lienzo de pared mal equilibrado que se desploma levantando nubes de polvo; algún perro enflaquecido, el pelo erizado, los ojos brillantes, aullando por el perdido dueño; y en los más remotos confines de ese campo de catástrofe, balidos temblorosos de reses espantadas...	And then, in the midst of this scene worthy of the visions of the apocalypse, the natural entourage of a rent and fatally wounded world, the savage shrieks of the survivors who lurked around the rubble, muffled shouts among the ruins begging for help; the dull sound of a poorly balanced facade keeling over and stirring up a cloud of dust; some gaunt dog with bristling fur and bright eyes, howling for his lost owner; and in the most remote corners of this field of doom, the quavering brays of the frightened cattle.
Todavía a la memoria del doctor acuden en confuso tropel, detalles vivos y horripilantes ... Brazos y piernas sangrientos	The doctor's memory could still recall the confused throng, grisly and vivid details...bloody arms and legs poking

asomando entre las ruinas y sirviendo de pasto a miríadas de moscas; algún rostro exangüe y contraído por la visión última, saliendo entre dos fragmentos de muralla; alguna tela de vívidos colores, como florescencia de ese campo de destrucción. Y en todo el ambiente un olor de carne corrompida, olor de cementerio, de campo de batalla, de cataclismo. La desesperación, la locura, el idiotismo, pintados en los rostros de los sobrevivientes vestidos de harapos. Y la naturaleza, en tanto, como burlándose del dolor humano, haciendo lujo de nubes coloreadas, de cielo azul, de calma majestuosa y solemne; y el Cotacachi, eterno e impasible, resplandeciente con el último rayo del sol, de la tarde, dominando la inmensa llanura cubierta ya de las tintas de la noche.	out from among the ruins, fodder for myriads of bugs, a blood-drained face tensed up by its final sight peeking out between two chunks of wall; some scrap of vividly colored cloth like a blossom on that field of destruction. And everywhere a stench of corrupted flesh, the stench of grave yards, of battle fields, of cataclysm. Desperation, madness, idiocy, painted on the faces of the survivors dressed in tatters. And meanwhile nature, as if to mock human pain, made opulently colored clouds and blue skies and Cotacachi stood with a majestic and stately calm, eternal and impassive, shining in the last beams of afternoon sun, lording over the immense plain that was even now covered by the inky shades of night.
En la memoria del doctor hay un vacío. No recuerda cómo encontró el sitio donde antes se levantaba el hogar de sus padres, ni de qué modo pudo orientarse en ese mar de ruinas informes que impedían el paso. Cuatro indios melenudos, de caras siniestras y miradas sombrías, le acompañaban, de muy	In the doctor's memory there was a gap. He could not remember how he found the place where once the home of his parents had stood, nor how he had found his bearings in the sea of shapeless ruins that blocked the path. Four shaggy-headed Indians with grim faces and grave glances accompanied

mala voluntad, sin embargo de haberles dado en pago todas las pocas monedas que llevaba. Tampoco tenía una idea clara de los trabajos emprendidos en medio de los escombros para encontrar los cadáveres de los suyos. ¿Todos habían perecido? ¿Alguno estaba vivo aún después de tres días de estar sepultado? ¿O andaba vagando pro ese caos? Pronto lo supo. Como si la víspera hubiera presenciado la escena, el doctor recordaba que al separar una enorme viga apareció el cadáver del padre con la cabeza partida y horriblemente desfigurada, y con una mano en actitud de separar el pesado madero. El mismo, el hijo, con una indiferencia estúpida, había ayudado a mover el obstáculo y él mismo levantó trabajosamente el cadáver y lo colocó sobre los escombros. Siguió la faena, y a poco fue encontrado el cadáver de la madre, abrazado al de una niña de pocos años. Ambas mostraban rostros horriblemente contraídos por la suprema angustia de la asfixia. ¿Cuántas horas esas dos criaturas agonizaron pidiendo un auxilio imposible? Más lejos, el cadáver de un niño, de un hermano del doctor, casi destrozado y convertido en un montón de huesos	him, very unwillingly despite his having given them the few coins he had as payment. Neither did he have a clear idea of the tasks undertaken in the midst of the rubble to find the bodies of his own. Had they all perished? Were any still living after being buried three days? Or were they wandering through this mayhem? Soon he knew. As if he had witnessed the scene that same evening, the doctor remembered that as they pulled out an enormous beam, his father's body had appeared with his head split and horribly disfigured, one hand reaching out as if to remove the heavy timber. He, the son, with foolish indifference, had helped move the obstacle and had himself arduously lifted up the body and placed it atop the rubble. He returned to the toil, and shortly his mother's body was found, hugging that of a young girl. Both faces were horridly tensed up by the supreme anguish of being smothered. How many hours had these two souls languished begging for an impossible rescue? Further out, the body of a child, the doctor's brother, nearly destroyed and turned into a pile of ground bones and shredded flesh… And then, more bodies, more horrors. His

triturados y de carnes laceradas... Y luego, más cadáveres, más horrores, toda la familia, en fin, sorprendida por la muerte en medio del sueño tranquilo y dulce. Después el doctor no recordaba ni cómo ni en dónde enterró, en confuso montón sin duda alguna, a todos los seres más queridos. ¿Cuánto tiempo tardó en llenar esa faena horrible?... Luego vino otra noche, pasada talvez, porque él no lo recordaba, al abrigo de una muralla en pie todavía, viendo circular por entre las ruinas, las lucecillas que iluminaban la labor de los vampiros, de los merodeadose algún sordo alarido de los infelices todavía vivos bajo los escombros; un mugido de un vientecillo helado entre los rotos arcos de un templo cercano; el aullido incesante de un perro extraviado; sintiendo que por el aire vagaba algo como el soplo de la muerte y del estrago... No enloqueció aquella noche horrible, no murió; pero si al día siguiente había envejecido medio siglo. El alma fue herida como con un cuchillo agudo, las facultades se embotaron y la noción del tiempo desparecieron de su conciencia. Aún después de veinte y dos años, un horroroso estremecimiento conmovía todas sus fibras,	whole family, in the end, surprised by death in the midst of sweet, calm sleep. Afterwards the doctor couldn't remember how nor where he buried, doubtlessly in a jumbled pile, all those he held most dear. How long did he tarry in that horrid toil?... then came another night, spent, perhaps, for he could not recall, in the shelter of some wall still standing, watching the flow of little lights that lit up the work of the vampires, those prowlers who sifted through the ruins in search of shameful plunder, and hearing some dull wailing of the hapless wretches yet alive under the rubble, the moaning of the icy wind blowing through the broken arches of a nearby sanctuary, the endless howling of a lost dog, the feeling that the wind carried something like the breath of death and havoc... He didn’t go mad that horrible night, he didn’t die, but by the next day he had aged half a century. His soul was injured as with a sharp knife, his senses were dulled, and the notion of time disappeared from his consciousness. Even after twenty-two years, a terrible shudder shook every fiber of his being, his heart barely beat, and to his ears came the uncanny sounds of

el corazón le latía apenas, y a sus oídos llegaban los ruidos siniestros de aquella noche, y en el aire puro de la mañana que iluminaba la mesa del trabajo creía escuchar ese algo desconocido que anonadó entonces sus facultades como el soplo de un inmenso ángel de exterminio.	that night. In the pure morning air that lit up his work table he believed he could hear that unknown something that stunned his senses like the breath of an immense Angel of Death.
Después, lo recordaba, sin saber cómo, fue a parar a un campanario improvisado por los sobrevivientes, con pedazos de puertas y con harapos arrancados de las ruinas. Allí comió unos granos de maíz tostado en una teja, con avidez salvaje, porque hacía cuatro días que no había comido, o a lo menos no lo recordaba. ¿Cuántos días pasó en ese campamento? no lo sabía; pero con lucidez rememoraba la venida de los socorros traídos por García Moreno, la actividad devoradora de éste, su energía sobrehumana para vencer los obstáculos de toda naturaleza, su caridad inmensa. ¿Acaso ese hombre era el mismo de Jambelí?.....	Later, he remembered, without knowing how, he came to stay at a campground the survivors had cobbled together, with pieces of doors and rags plucked from the ruins. There he ate a few grains of corn that had been toasted on a roof tile, greedily wolfing them down, for it had been four days since he had eaten, at least that he could recall. How many days did he spend in that camp? He knew not, but he vividly remembered the arrival of aid brought by Garcia Moreno[2], his all consuming activity, his superhuman energy to overcome any sort of obstacle, his immense beneficence. Could this be the same man from Jambelí[3]?

[2] Then president of Ecuador
[3] An infamous naval battle in 1865

Años después había vuelto el doctor a su tierra natal. Los edificios se levantaban por todas parte; donde fue la casa de sus padres había otra, habitada por desconocidos; los árboles volvían a dar alabanza el aspecto de ciudad oriental, el césped de los campos estaba verde y unido; y las lomas, redondeadas otra vez por las lluvias y los vientos, asemejábanse a los pechos de una naturaleza fecunda; y allá en el fin de la llanura, el Cotacachi resplandeciente con su corona de nieve eterna, dominaba impasible y mudo la risueña provincia de Imbabura. Todo volvía a su antiguo estado, sólo el alma del doctor había quedado entenebrecida para siempre y tocada por una ponzoña incurable, la hipocondría.	Years later the doctor had returned to his native land. New buildings had been raised all over, where his parent's house had stood now stood another; strangers lived there now. The trees once again gave Ibarra that feel of an oriental city, the grass in the fields was green and grew together, and the hills, rounded again by the rains and winds, resembled to be the ample bosoms of fertile nature; and there at the end of the plain stood Cotacachi, shining with her crown of eternal snow, unperturbed and silent, ruling the cheerful province of Imbabura. All had returned to its former state, only the doctor's heart had been left forever dimmed and touched by an incurable poison: anxiety.

II	II
El tiempo es el gran médico de las enfermedades del alma; atenúa, cuando no borra, las peores heridas, Ramírez sintió esa benéfica mano tan suave, tan insensible en la manera de obrar y pasados dos años del terremoto, en el cual había perdido familia, fortuna y gran parte de su vigor moral y de la fe en el porvenir propio, fue relegando a un rincón de su memoria los penosos recuerdos de entonces. A poco del cataclismo, regresó a Quito a continuar los estudios, único porvenir que le quedaba; pues el patrimonio con que antes contaba la familia, una tienda de comercio, había desparecido en la catástrofe. Difíciles fueron los días que atravesó en Quito; con una mensualidad de diez pesos mandadas por un cura, pariente lejano que vivía en un pueblo de la Costa, era necesario vivir; con esa exigua suma pagaba el miserable cuartucho y la ruin comida que le daban en un figón, y muchas veces faltaba la hedionda vela de sebo para poder estudiar las lecciones. Haciendo prodigios de economía y guardando	Time is the great healer of sicknesses of the souls;. When it cannot erase the worst wounds, it softens them. Ramirez felt this gentle, benevolent hand, working in an invisible way, and two years after the earthquake in which he had lost family, fortune, and a good chunk of his moral stamina and faith in his own future, he stashed the painful memories of that time into a small corner of his mind. Shortly after the calamity he returned to Quito, to continue his interrupted studies: the only future he had left, since the inheritance he had previously expected from his family, a small mercantile shop, had disappeared in the catastrophe. He went through hard times in Quito, with a monthly allowance of ten pesos, sent by a priest, a distant relative who lived in a town on the coast. He had to live; with that meagre sum he paid for the dingy room and miserable meals they served at a food stand, and he often lacked even a stinking tallow candle for studying his coursework. Working financial wonders and pinching pennies,

centavo a centavo, podía comprar la pobre ropa que necesitaba para poder asistir a los cursos. Todas las expansiones propias de la juventud le estaban absolutamente vedadas y los amigos que podían ayudarle y ser a veces un recurso inapreciable para las luchas de la vida eran para Ramírez de pura etiqueta; pues él, cohibido con la pobreza y su carácter huraño y triste, nunca intimó con nadie. Concluyó, empero, los estudios: atenta su notoria pobreza y teniendo en cuenta la aplicación y aprovechamiento notables, los derechos de exámenes y grados le fueron dispensados. ¡Con cuánta emoción recibió del cura una pequeña suma de dinero destinada a comprar la levita y el sombrero de copa para el grado! Este fue lucido y obtuvo una votación sobresaliente. ¡Cuánta vergüenza tuvo el nuevo doctor, al no tener con qué comprar una mala botella de vino para invitar a los profesores y condiscípulos, como es de costumbre en estos casos! Solo, huraño, avergonzado, con la muerte en el alma, dirigióse, concluido el examen, a su pobre cuartito, testigo de tantas miserias y amarguras y de tanto tesón y buena voluntad, sin tener a quien comunicar el triunfo	he was able to buy the pitiful clothes he needed to go out on the streets and attend his classes. All the natural paths of youth were shut off to him and the friends who might help him in something or be an invaluable resource for the struggles of life were to Ramirez simply labels, curbed in by poverty and his gloomy, withdrawn nature he never opened up to anyone. Nevertheless, he finished his studies, aware of his conspicuous poverty and taking into account his notable application and achievement, they covered the exam and degree fees . How excitedly did he receive that small sum of money from his priest relative to be able to buy the cap and gown for the graduation! It was splendid, and he received outstanding marks. The new doctor was quite ashamed that he was unable to buy a simple bottle of wine to be able to offer a drink to his professors and classmates, as is the custom in such cases. Alone, withdrawn, ashamed with death in his soul, he went out, once the exam had ended, to his poor little room, the witness of so much misery and bitterness, of such grit and good will, with no one to share his triumph with, no mother with tears of joy, nor father

obtenido, sin que hubiese una madre llorosa de placer ni un padre emocionado de contento que acogieran al nuevo abogado. Esa noche, que para tantos otros estudiantes, es de alegría, de goces mil, de esperanzas, fue para Ramírez, de lágrimas.	thrilled to embrace the new lawyer. That night, which for so many other students, is a time of happiness, of a thousand joys, of hope, for Ramirez was filled with tears.
Poco a poco ganó algunas sumas de dinero en pleitos de asuntos de menor cuantía, hasta que la defensa que hizo ante un consejo de guerra de un pobre artesano acusado de conspirador, dióle con el triunfo, merecida fama de elocuente y conocedor de la ley. Luego vinieron otras causas más complicadas, en el despacho de los juicios anduvo acertado, y su reputación de abogado ganó bastante terreno. Estaba pues, libre de la miserias y con el porvenir asegurado.	Bit by bit he earned some sums of money in minor suits, until the defense he made before a court martial of a poor artisan accused of conspiracy gave him victory and the well-earned fame of being eloquent and knowledgeable in the law. Then came more complicated cases; he was successful in the courthouse, and his reputation as an attorney gained much ground. He was then free from misery and had a sure future.
¿Cómo se enamoró el joven abogado por primera vez? ¿Sintió acaso esa necesidad del corazón que se traduce en el deseo de entregarse a otro o fue una simple impulsión de la materia, despertada tarde, después de un sueño causado por la	How did the young lawyer fall in love for the first time? Did he perchance feel that need of the heart which is transformed into the desire to give oneself to another? Or was it the simple impulse of the matter woken up late? After a

hipocondría y el trabajo incesante, o por haberse negado tenaz a los deseos que el atormentaban? Vio a Camila Quiroz, con motivo de un pleito en que él la defendía, relativo a una herencia y se enamoró de ella. No mediaron amores románticos ni exageraciones; vióla conveniente para hacer la su mujer y, sobre todo, vióla fácil de conseguirla sin tener necesidad de largas esperas y de dilaciones; se casó con ella, mitad por necesidad del alma y mitad por necesidad del cuerpo, pues Camila sin ser bella, tenía ese atractivo especial de las cuarentonas, que encienden los deseos en esos hombre calmosos y tristes como el doctor Ramírez. A poco del matrimonio, el carácter de Camila descubrióse tal cual era; una mezcla informe de pasiones ardientes y de frialdades extrañas; de entusiasmos momentáneos y cálculos ruines; y de endemoniando en todo, un exagerado espíritu religioso, un fanatismo elevado al último extremo; enfermedad muy común en las mujeres de esa complexión física, enfermedad de herencias española, aumentada por generaciones dominadas por los sacerdotes. Enfermedad agravada por nuestras	slumber caused by anxiety and unending work, or by having stubbornly denied himself the desires that tormented him? He saw Camila Quiroz, due to a suit in which he represented her with regards to an inheritance, and he fell in love with her. It wasn't through romantic love or excesses; he saw her as being convenient to be his wife, and above all he saw her as being easy to get without the need for long waits and dalliances. He married her, half for the needs of his soul, and half for the needs of his body, for Camila, without being beautiful, had that special attractiveness of women in their forties that kindles the desires of those tranquil and gloomy men like Dr. Ramirez. Shortly after the wedding, Camila's temperament showed itself for what it was: a shapeless mix of burning passions and strange iciness. Momentary enthusiasm and petty calculations, and dominating it all, an excessive religious spirit, a fanaticism raised up to the highest extreme, the malady of Spanish heritage heightened by generations dominated by priests. A malady made worse by our customs, our gloomy sky, our rugged landscape. All these factors have made the Ecuadorian

costumbres, nuestro cielo triste, nuestro paisaje agreste. Todos estos factores han hecho de la mujer ecuatoriana y muchas veces del hombre, un ser débil, de poca iniciativa, y una víctima de las enfermedades nerviosas. Debido a esta idiosincrasia nacional, toda innovación se ha considerado como un peligro, toda ambición de mejora social y política, peligrosa, y toda expansión criminal.	woman, and often the man, a weak being, with little initiative, and a victim of nervous illnesses. Due to this national idiosyncrasy, all innovations are seen as a danger, all ambition for social and political improvement as dangerous, and all growth as criminal.
El doctor Ramírez por temperamento, por afición, por educación era religioso profundamente religioso, intransigente con todo lo que no estuviera amoldado a las prácticas más severas. Nunca aceptaba una vacilación, una ligera duda en asuntos de fe. La catástrofe que en una noche le había quitado familia y fortuna; la soledad y aislamiento en que vivió antes de casarse su mismo carácter apocado y triste, obraron de consuno para llevarle sin esfuerzo a ese estado psicológico, o más fisiológico, tan común en hombres de iguales o parecidas complexiones, que encuentran alivio en los pesares de la vida en las prácticas religiosas exageradas. Además, el medio	Dr. Ramirez, by temperament, by inclination, by education, was religious. Profoundly religious, intolerant of anything that did not conform to the most rigid practices. He would never accept any wavering or the slightest doubt in matters of faith. The catastrophe was a night that had robbed him of family and fortune, the loneliness and isolation in which he lived before his wedding, his own timid and gloomy nature, worked in concert to bring him, without any effort on his part, to that psychological, or rather physiological state, so common to men with the same or similar constitution, who find relief from the sorrows of life in excessive religious practices.

ambiente social de entonces más que ahora, era absolutamente favorable para la vida religiosa; un tanto cercana al misticismo. Quito era una ciudad absolutamente católica. Nadie, a lo menos muy pocos de sus habitantes, dejaba de oír la misa diaria en los múltiples templos de que está adornada, los que apenas alcanzaban a contener la multitud de fieles. Todo el año había ya en una, ya en otra iglesia, ejercicios espirituales, o jubileos. Hombres y mujeres, niños y viejos, pertenecían a las cofradías y congregaciones, y era muy raro el ejemplo de que algún hombre de posición social dejara de practicar todos los preceptos religiosos señalados prolijamente por los clérigos y frailes, porque luego le caía la tacha de masón y hereje, suficiente causa para despertar las sospechas de la policía garciana. Poco o nada han cambiado estas costumbres religiosas y medioevales, pues a través de más de treinta años se conservan las mismas, con ligeras e insignificantes modificaciones. Cuando la piedad es extremada; cuando la religión es una máscara fúnebre para disfrazar el vicio y el	Additionally, the social environment of that time, more so than now, was absolutely favorable to religious life, a touch closer to mysticism. Quito was an absolutely Catholic city. No one, or at least very few of her inhabitants, failed to attend mass daily in the multiple churches dotted around the city, which barely managed to contain the multitudes of the faithful. Throughout the year they had in one or another of the churches spiritual exercises or jubilees. Men and women, young and old, belonged to the religious orders or fellowships, and it was quite odd to find an example of any man with a social position who would cease the practice of all the religious precepts verbosely outlined by the clergy and friars, for if not he would be marked as a freemason and heretic, which was sufficient cause to awaken the suspicions of the police under Garcia[4]. These medieval religious customs have changed little, or not at all; for over thirty years they have maintained themselves with light and insignificant modifications. When piety is extreme, when religion is a death mask to disguise vice and crime, how much

[4] Gabriel Garcia Moreno, former president of Ecuador who controlled the country even after his presidency

crimen, cuanto lodo asqueroso, cuanta podredumbre, cuanta porquería se ocultan en los rincones de sacristías y conventos. ¡Cuanta miseria, hambre y lágrimas en medio de los cánticos, de las procesiones paganas, y del incienso oloroso de las pompas sacras!	loathsomeness, how much decay, how much filth is hidden in the recesses of the vestries and cloisters? Such misery, hunger, and years in the midst of the hymns of the pagan processions and the pungent incense of the holy pageantry!
El matrimonio Ramírez era de un catolicismo ferviente y bajo la disciplina de los preceptos más estrictos de la Iglesia educaba a los dos únicos hijos, sin permitirles la más leve e inocente trasgresión de lo dispuesto en ese complicado y absurdo código llamado moral católica, Salvador, el primogénito, al cumplir los ocho años, entró de interno al colegio de los jesuitas, y Mariana, la segunda y última, apenas cumplidos los siete años de la pobre vida fue también de interna al colegio de las monjas de los SS.CC.	The Ramirez marriage was that of a fervent Catholicism, and they educated their only two children under the discipline of the strictest precepts of the church, without allowing them the least or most innocent transgression of what is laid out in that complicated and absurd code called Catholic Morality. Salvador, the first born, upon turning eight was enrolled in the Jesuit boarding school, and Mariana the second and last child, had barely turned seven when she was also sent to the boarding school of the nuns of the Sacred Hearts.
El niño nunca había saboreado las delicias inherentes a los primeros años de la vida. De índole mansa y pasiva, poco comunicativo con los de su edad, nunca se entregó a esos	The boy had never tasted the delights inherent to the first years of life. Being meek and passive in nature, not very communicative with those of his age, he never gave himself

múltiples juegos que hacen el encanto de los niños. Las fuerzas físicas que principiaban a manifestarse pronto, y con ellas el carácter futuro, atrofiadas por la falta de ejercicio y de aire, apenas se esbozaban en un cuerpo delgado y débil y en un rostro pálido con grandes ojos azules dulcísimos, sombreados por cabellos finos color de oro. Salvador a los doce años demostraba apenas ocho y tenía ese algo inexplicable, como anuncio, cierto de los que han de morir jóvenes y que sólo están en el mundo como de paso.	over to those many games which fascinate boys. His physical strength, which started to show itself early, and with it his future temperament, atrophied by the lack of exercise and fresh air, was barely sketched out on a thin and weak body, and on a pale face with big, sweet blue eyes, which peeked out from under fine, gold-colored locks. Salvador at the age of twelve looked to be only eight, and had that inexplicable something, like the certain harbinger of those doomed to die young and who are only passing through this world.
Mariana, por uno de esos fenómenos bastante frecuentes, era el reverso de su hermano: bulliciosa, enérgica y atrevida. El tipo físico anunciaba un temperamento ardiente, porque era morena de ojos negros, labios abultados, pelo negro y ensortijado, tipo exacto de la cuarterona, como si en los antepasados de su familia hubiera circulado la sangre africana.	Mariana, through one of those rather common phenomena, was the opposite of her brother: boisterous, energetic, and daring. Her physical type heralded a fiery demeanor, because she was dark-skinned, with black eyes, thick lips, and black, curly hair, precisely fitting the description of a quadroon[5], as if African blood flowed among the ancestors of her family.

[5] In colonial times there was an attempt to label each possible racial combination, a quarteron was ¾ european and ¼ african.

Doña Camila no podía soportar los impetuosos arranques de su hija, y a todo trance quería aplastar o moderar ese carácter para hacerlo silencioso y triste como el de Salvador. Pronto lo consiguió, pues la chiquita de apenas seis años hízose callada, huraña y aprendió el supremo arte de las mujeres; el disimulo. Sólo con su hermano tenía confianza y ambos se amaban con ese amor de niños solitarios, rodeados de algo como murallas que impedían las legítimas expansiones de la edad. A hurtadillas de los padres, se atrevían hasta a reírse a carcajadas con ese ritmo sonoro e inimitable que brota de la garganta de los niños, como del instrumento más delicado. Hacían proyectos para ellos irrealizables: paseos y carreras por los campos verdes que divisaban desde las ventanas de la casa, o de juguetes que deseaban tener y que nunca los consiguieron. Salvador deseaba con vehemencia un caballo de caucho de había visto en la vidriera de un almacén, y Mariana una muñeca de china, de esa de una peseta que un día vio en manos de una chiquilla hija del zapatero de la esquina.	Doña Camila couldn't stand her daughter's rash outbursts, and tried at all costs to stamp out or moderate this personality and make it hushed and gloomy like Salvador's. Soon she managed it, for at the tender age of six the girl turned quiet and withdrawn, and learned at an early age the crowning art of women: deceit. She trusted only in her brother, and both loved each other with that love of lonely children, surrounded by something like bulwarks that hindered the natural growth at their ages. Stealthily, out of the sight of their parents they could dare to laugh with that unmistakable resounding rhythmic giggling that pours out of the throats of children, as if from the finest instrument. They came up with what for them were impossible projects, rambles and races through the green fields they could make out from the windows of their house, or of toys they hoped to have but never received. Salvador eagerly wanted a rubber horse he had seen in the window display of a shop, and Mariana a china doll, one that cost a peseta that one day she had seen in the hands of the corner shoemaker's daughter.

La casa parecía desierta, casa grande y oscura como aún se ven muchas en Quito, como reliquias de principios del siglo pasado. Las ventanas daban a una muralla de un convento de monjas, y apenas, al fin de la calle que terminaba en callejuela sinuosa y estrecha, se alcanzaban a ver las breñas del Pichincha lamidas frecuentemente por las nieblas. Esta vista era la predilecta de los niños y les eran familiares los mil pequeños detalles del chaparro, de los pajonales de las cimas o de las oscuras quebradas que desgarraban los flancos de la montaña. Largas horas se pasaba Salvador viendo esos detalles del paisaje, haciendo volar la pobre fantasía de niño, por las nieblas blancas, por los cerros escarpados, como si tuviera un secreto impulso de carrera por el aire libre y sorprender así lo desconocido que adivinaba en su fantasía, tras la inmensa mole de la cordillera.

Don Jacinto con su carácter huraño y su eterna cara de murria, aunque bondadoso, no inspiraba ninguna confianza y

The house seemed deserted, a big dark house like many you can still see in Quito, like relics of the beginning of the previous century. The windows opened out on the wall of a convent of nuns, and, just barely, at the end of the road that ended in a narrow, sinuous alleyway, they could spot the heaths of Pichincha, frequently carpeted with mists. This was the children's favorite view and the thousand tiny details of that scrubland were familiar to them, from the grasslands of the peaks to the dark gullies that rend their way down the sides of the mountain. Salvador spent long hours staring at these details of the landscape, the poor whimsy of a child taking flight over the white mists, over rugged ridges, as if he has a secret drive to fly free through the air and so discover the unknown that he fancied lay across the immense mass of the mountain range.

Don Jacinto, with his withdrawn nature and eternally sullen face, while kindhearted, did not inspire any trust from

sus hijos, y menos aún Doña Camila, displicente por educación y por naturaleza, y agriada por una enfermedad incurable propia de su sexo. Niñez sin aire, sin luz, sin cielo azul, no es niñez. Niñez sin risas, sin besos, sin esas sana expansiones de un espíritu que están en su aurora, no es niñez. Quitad al niño todo aquello que hace su dicha, como a la planta el agua y al ave el espacio libre, ¿qué le dais en cambio? ¿Religión, piedad, obediencia pasiva y automática?..... ¡Pobres seres aprisionados físicas y moralmente, aves cortadas de las alas, arpas rotas las cuerdas, plantas gigantes contenidas en una maceta! ¿Y después? ¡entregadlas al mundo que nunca perdona la debilidad y el candor, y aplasta todo lo que no puede o no sabe defenderse en la lucha de la vida, o los avienta como débiles pajas de una era a destinos inciertos y lúgubres!	his children, and much less Doña Camila, disdainful by training as well as by nature, and embittered by the incurable illness peculiar to her sex. Childhood without air, without light, without blue skies, is not a childhood. Childhood without laughter, without kisses, without those healthy outgrowths of a dawning spirit, is not childhood. Take away from a child all that brings bliss, like water to a plant and wide space to a bird, and what do you give them in exchange? Religion, piety, passive and automatic obedience? Poor creatures, physically and morally imprisoned, birds with clipped wings, harps with snapped strings, gigantic plants restrained in a flower pot! And afterwards? Hand them over to a world that is ever-unforgiving of weakness and naiveté and which squashes all that cannot or knows not how to defend itself in the struggle of life, or hurls them out like the weak chaff from a threshing floor into uncertain and dreary destinations.
En el colegio, Salvador cambió de cárcel. De índole suave, aplicado al estudio y de aptitudes notables, distinguióse desde	In high school, Salvador changed prisons. Having a gentle nature, applied to study and with notable aptitude, he

el primer día. Querido de los profesores, fue odiado por los compañeros. En los colegios la superioridad intelectual, nunca es perdonada, si no va acompañada de un carácter de acero. La fuerza física, la desvergüenza insidiosa y cruel, triunfan y causan la admiración de los niños. Salvador hacía lo posible por conquistar el aprecio de sus compañeros de internado, porque era de esas naturalezas dulces para las cuales el cariño de los que les rodean es una necesidad; en vano ponía a su voz. La distinción de que era objeto de parte de sus profesores, aumentó la envidia y el encono de los muchachos entre los que se distinguían algunos hijos de las familias nobles, torpes y díscolos, necios y cobardes. Poco a poco huyó de todas las relaciones que hubiera podido estrechar, y como un derivativo o un consuelo en su aislamiento, entregóse con frenesí al estudio y a la devoción. Así pasaron algunos años, apenas modificándose el carácter de Salvador y ganando pocas y frías amistades entre los condiscípulos. Los paseos semanales a los alrededores pintorescos de la Capital, despertaron en él una nueva afición: la de la vida contemplativa en la soledad de los	distinguished himself from the first day. Liked by the professors, he was hated by his classmates. In high schools, intellectual superiority is never forgiven unless it is accompanied by a backbone of steel. Physical strength and insidious cruel impudence triumph and earn the admiration of the boys. Salvador did what he could to gain the esteem of his boarding school mates, for he had one of those sweet natures for whom the affection of others is a need. In vain he put forth his meekness, fulsome spirit, and premature judgement. The distinction that he received on behalf of his professors intensified the other boys' envy and rancor, among whom stood out a few sons of noble families, lumbering and unruly, foolish and cowardly. Bit by bit he fled from all the connections he could have forged, and either as a result of or as a consolation in his loneliness, he gave himself madly to study and devotion. Several years went by like that, barely changing Salvador's personality and gaining but few and cold friendships among his classmates. The weekly outings to the picturesque surroundings of the capital awoke in him a new interest: that of

campos, en medio de goces ignorados y apenas presentidos en sus sueños místicos.	contemplative life in the solitude of the fields, in the midst of ignored pleasures barely noticed in his mystical dreams.
En las vacaciones salía en junta de la familia a una pequeña propiedad que había comprado el doctor. Allí la vida de la casa poco o nada había cambiado. Siempre el padre con la eterna murria y la madre displicente y devota. Salvador y Mariana, convertida ya en una señorita, vagaban juntos por los llanos y caminos como ansiosos de recuperar una libertad de que habían estado privado en su niñez.	During vacations, he went with his family to a small property that the doctor had bought. There the home life had changed little or not at all: his father ever sullen-faced and his mother disdainful and devout. Salvador and Mariana, now a young lady, wandered together through the dales and pathways as though eager to regain a freedom that had been withheld from them in their childhood.
Mariana prometía ser muy hermosa, con esa belleza típica y espléndida de la mujer destinadas a ser madre algún día. La amplitud de un cuerpo desarrollado a maravilla, a pesar de las inicuas costumbres de esas prisiones insanas llamadas colegios de Señoritas, anunciaba una naturaleza robusta, propia para luchar en las batallas de la vida.	Mariana promised to be very beautiful, with that typical and splendid beauty of a woman destined to one day be a mother. The fullness of a marvelously developed body, despite the unfair custom of those insane prisons called finishing schools, heralded a sturdy nature, suitable for fighting the battles of life.

En Mariana nacían ya dos principios contrapuestos y hostiles: la naturaleza fisiológica la impulsaba al ruido, al movimiento, a la alegría, al triunfo en las lides del amor, la educación del hogar y del colegio, a la quietud, al anonadamiento de las facultades, a la contemplación. Sospechaba que más allá de las paredes de su casa y más allá de la vida piadosa había un mundo lleno de tempestades y de rugientes pasiones, y quería verlo, navegar en él, dominarlo acaso. Al mismo tiempo, tenía cierto secreto temor de desafiar las iras de ese mar, pues, según las enseñanzas del colegio, en él se encerraban los enemigos del alma, y por tanto, de la soñada ventura eterna. Salvador, con algún mayor conocimiento de la vida, adquirido en la lectura de los libros que había leído en la biblioteca de los jesuitas, quería guiar a su hermana en la confusión de ideas que atormentaban ese cerebro.	Within Mariana two hostile and opposing principles were springing forth: her physiological nature, driven toward bustling, movement, towards joy, toward triumph in the battles for love; and her education from home and the school toward stillness, abasement of her senses, to contemplation. She suspected that beyond the walls of the house and beyond her pious life there was a world filled with storms and burning passions, and she wanted to see it, make her way through it, perhaps even tame it. At the same time she had a certain secret fear of challenging the wrath of that sea, for, according to the teachings of her school, therein were contained the enemies of the soul and, therefore, the dream of eternal bliss. Salvador, with a bit better knowledge of life, obtained from the books he had read in the Jesuit library, wanted to guide his sister through the muddle of ideas that wrecked her mind.

Trabajo inútil. La fantasía de la muchacha caminaba más ligero que las ideas de Salvador, era un verdadero caballo desbocado al que quiere guiar un jinete novel y cobarde. Esta era la familia Ramírez, en la mañana aquella de agosto clara y de sol, cuando el doctor hacía recuerdos de la catástrofe de Imbabura, paseándose en su despacho de abogado.	Wasted work. The girl's fantasy tread more nimbly than Salvador's ideas; it truly was an unbridled horse that a novice and cowardly rider was trying to guide. Such was the Ramirez family, on that sunny and clear August morning, when the doctor remembered the catastrophe of Imbabura, pacing in his law office.
III Cumplía Salvador los diez y ocho años, cuando concluidos sus estudios de colegio con gran lucimiento, iba a graduarse de Bachiller en Filosofía. Fue un acontecimiento en los fastos del colegio, pues Salvador era muy querido de los Profesores, por su aplicación y buena conducta escolar y religiosa, como rezaban, los	III Salvador had turned eighteen, when, having concluded his high school studies with great brilliance, he was set to graduate with a degree in philosophy. It was an event with the full pomp and pageantry of the school, for Salvador was much beloved by the professors, due to his application and good scholarly and religious conduct, as

certificados de los siete años de enseñanza secundaria, documentos que el joven puso en manos de los examinadores con imperceptible gesto de vanidad, muy justa por cierto.	his seven years' worth of secondary education certificates repeated, documents which the youth put into the hands of his examiners with an imperceptible air of vanity, though rightfully so.
El Tribunal estaba compuesto por los mismos Profesores del examinado, encasquetados los inseparables bonetes y colocados sobre una plataforma situada en el fondo del largo y desmantelado salón de actos. El futuro Bachiller, sentado en una incómoda silleta que casi desaparecería entre los faldones de la levita, estrenada ese día, y haciendo frente a los examinadores, destacábase muy bien en la penumbra de la salas, porque recibía de lleno a luz de una ventana abierta.	The panel was made up of the examinees' own professors, who had donned the essential caps and who were placed on a platform at the end of a long and rearranged assembly hall. The future graduate, seated on an uncomfortable stool that almost disappeared among the folds of his gown, debuted that day, and facing the examiners, stood out in the half light of the room, because the full light of an open window fell on him.
Hacia la puerta de ingreso, se veía un grupo de estudiantes y sentado en un rincón oscuro y poco visible, al doctor Jacinto que había venido a presenciar el grado de su hijo.	Towards the entrance door one could make out a group of students, and sitting in a dark corner, barely visible, Dr. Jacinto who had come to witness the graduation of his son.

El Decano sonóse ruidosamente en un pañuelo de cuadros, una caja de rapé circuló entre los padres, oyéronse pisadas cautelosas en el entablado del salón, producidas por los estudiantes y curiosos que entraban, y principió el examen. La Filosofía rompió los fuegos y los sostuvo casi las tres cuartas partes del tiempo destinado al examen: Hilomorfismo, materia y forma, potencia y acto, futuros condicionales, el Syllabus, el liberalismo; niego, concedo, distingo y otras palabras de rúbrica y términos técnicos cruzábanse entre el examinado y los examinadores, los que debían estar muy satisfechos del antiguo discípulo, porque con sonrisas amables repetían: "bien, muy bien". Con un problema de álgebra terminó el acto, recibiendo Salvador el título de Bachiller en Filosofía, previas las un tanto ridículas formalidades usadas para esta ceremonia.	The dean loudly blew his nose into a checkered handkerchief, the fathers passed around a snuffbox, careful footsteps could be heard on the floorboards in the room, caused by the students and onlookers who came in, and the exam began. Philosophy kicked it off and took up nearly three parts of the time allotted to the exam: Hylomorphism, matter and form, potentiality and actuality, future contingents, the Syllabus of Errors, liberalism: deny, concede, distinguish, and other words from the rubric and technical terms, crisscrossed back and forth between the examinee and the examiners, who must have been rather satisfied with their former student, because with warm smiles they repeated "good, very good". The proceedings ended with an algebra problem, and Salvador received the degree of High School Baccalaureate in Philosophy, following the somewhat ridiculous formalities used for this ceremony.
Los profesores y condiscípulos felicitaron al Bachiller, y don Jacinto, emocionado hasta las lágrimas y sin pronunciar	The professors and classmates congratulated the graduate, and Don Jacinto, moved to tears and without

una sola palabra abrazó al estudiante. A la memoria del doctor acudieron los recuerdos de otros días felices y ya lejanos, cuando él, joven como Salvador aprovechando, diera el grado de bachiller en ese mismo salón y recibiera de su padre, que había venido de Ibarra para el acto, un abrazo estrechísimo, ese padre que un día volvería a ver bajo un mar de escombros con la cabeza partida...	speaking a word, hugged the student. Memories of other happy days, now long past, came to the doctor's mind, when he, young like Salvador and, like Salvador hard working, he graduated in that same room, and welcomed his father, who had come from Ibarra for the event, with a tight hug, that father who one day he would see again under a sea of rubble with a split head.
–Eres todo un filósofo, –decía un profesor dirigiéndose a Salvador –tienes conocimientos bastante completo de Santo Tomás, y con este angélico doctor, el arma más poderosa para derrotar la impiedad.	"You're quite a philosopher," said one of the professors, addressing Salvador. "You have a rather complete knowledge of St. Thomas, and with that angelic doctor, the most powerful weapon to defy iniquity."
–Lo que me ha gustado, –decía otro, –es lo bien que ha comprendido a Sardá y Salvan, que es un autor precioso: tunda como la dada por el Chapetón a los liberales.....	"What I most enjoyed," said another, "is how well you have understood Sarda y Salvany[6], who is a delightful writer: a thrashing like the one the blockhead gave the liberals!"

[6] Félix Sardà y Salvany

–Eso de los futuros libres tiene sus bemoles.	"The thing about the free futures has its depths."
–El atomismo de Descartes es un absurdo....	"Descartes' atomism is an absurd..."
Y entre profesores y estudiantes, se entabló una discusión sobre muchos puntos del pasado examen. Cuando los últimos salieron a la calle siguieron todavía, divididos en grupos, la eterna discusión, citando a Santo Tomás, el Padre Suárez, a Locke y más filósofos; pues, es antiguo achaque de los estudiantes de filosofía, el preocuparse de estos asuntos sutiles y completamente inútiles. La educación de nuestra juventud ha seguido ese camino trazado desde el tiempo de la Colonia: mucho de filosofía especulativa y nada de las ciencias prácticas de la vida. Salvador salía, pues, del colegio de los jesuitas convertido en un verdadero filósofo, y con esa filosofía rancia y caduca que mata la franca acción del hombre, iba a conquistar un porvenir.	And the professors and students struck up a discussion over many points of the now-ended exam. When the last ones went out to the street, they were still broken into groups, the eternal debate quoting St. Thomas, Father Suarez, Locke, and other philosophers; for that is the ailment of philosophy students, who are troubled with those subtle and completely useless matters. The education of our youth has followed that path, charted forth since colonial times: Much of speculative philosophy and nothing of those sciences practical for life. Salvador set out from the Jesuit school, turned into a true philosopher, and with that rancid, expired philosophy that kills man's blunt action, set out to conquer his future.

IV	IV
La fortuna de la familia Ramírez era apenas mediana, y el doctor con gran copia de trabajo en su profesión de abogado, difícilmente alcanzada a subvenir las necesidades de los suyos, bien moderadas por cierto. Los bienes consistían en la casa grande y vieja donde vivían, arruinada en parte, y en una quinta en el valle de Chillo que absorbía más dinero que el producido por las menguadas cosechas de maíz. El gran problema de la vida, de todo padre de familia sin patrimonio, acongojaba al doctor ya tan propenso al abatimiento y al pesimismo. En su imaginación fecundas para concebir ideas funestas, veía muy negro el mañana; veía que el pan, el triste pan del pobre, acaso faltaría con la muerte del encargado de suministrarlo cotidianamente. Y sus fuerzas y energías iban disminuyendo, su voluntad era ya rebelde y su organismo de hombre lo había ya talvez gastado en una lucha de escasos resultados. Si él faltaba, ¿podría Doña Camila afrontar valerosa la responsabilidad que recaería sobre ella sola? Imposible; él la	The Ramirez family fortune was barely at the median, and the doctor, even with a great deal of work in his profession as an attorney, found it difficult to meet the needs of his family, moderate though they were. His assets consisted of the big old house where they lived, part of which was in ruins, and of a country farmhouse in the Chillo valley, which absorbed more money than it produced with its ebbing corn harvests. The great problem of life, of every head of household without an inheritance, distressed the doctor, already inclined to dejection and pessimism. In his imagination, that fertile ground for conceiving bleak ideas, tomorrow looked very black. He saw that bread, that gloomy poor man’s bread, might well be lacking upon the death of he who was tasked with furnishing it day by day. And his strengths and energies weakened on, his will was already wayward, and his manly body had perhaps already been spent in the struggle for sparse results. If he were gone, could Doña Camila courageously face the responsibility

conocía débil de carácter, inepta para la lucha, devoradas sus escasas energías por el misticismo embrutecedor y por esa enfermedad incurable. ¿Salvador?, seguía exactamente las huellas del padre; estudiaba jurisprudencia, carrera que para pocos está sembrada de flores y para los más, ¡ilusos! Es una vía dolorosa, por la que se marcha en compañía de la escasez y dejando en todas partes girones de la dignidad y el honor. Salvador, modelo de hijos y de estudiantes, ¿podría afrontar las responsabilidades y ladear los obstáculos inherentes a la dirección de una familia? El mismo padre, el doctor, lo había engendrado débil de cuerpo y cobarde de alma, llevando en su ser la herencia del temor inexplicable y la madre habíale dado con la sangre, el espíritu místico y quietista y la complexión linfática. Educado luego, con lujo de rigor, para impedirle el conocimiento saludable de la vida y sí el de ciencias absolutamente ineficaces y abstractas, nunca podía ser el sostén y defensor valiente y abnegado de una familia ni menos sería capaz de ganar el pan para su madre enferma e inútil y	that would fall on her alone? Impossible, he knew her to be of weak temperament, inept for that struggle, her sparse energies devoured by that stupefying mysticism and by that incurable illness. Salvador? He was following in his father's footsteps precisely, he was studying law, a degree that for a few is strewn with flowers and for the rest, poor chumps, it's a sorrowful way, through which one marches in the company of scarcity and leaves smithereens of their dignity and honor all around. Salvador was a model son and student; could he face the responsibilities and overcome the hurdles inherent to leading a family? His very father, the doctor, had sired him with a weak body and cowardly soul, carrying in his being that inheritance of inexplicable fear, and his mother had given him though her blood, that mystical and quietest spirit and a phlegmatic complexion. Educated then, with the rigor as his treat, to block the healthy knowledge of life from him, and just allow that of absolutely ineffective and abstract sciences, he could never be the anchor and self-sacrificing, brave defender of the family, much less be capable of earning bread for his ill mother and

para su hermana que, con la pubertad, recibió como un bautismo funesto, los ataques histéricos.	useless sister who, as through a baleful christening at puberty, had acquired hysterical fits.
Pensando todos estos factores, el doctor terminaba por envidiar a los padres que tienen hijos fuertes, enérgicos y valientes, a los que no arredra ninguna amenaza y que se lanzan a la lucha por la vida armados de punta en blanco y que vencen casi siempre, sin acobardarse por los descalabros. ¡Cuánto envidiaba a los artesanos y labradores que enseñan y educan a los hijos para que sigan manejando la herramienta o cultivando la tierra, para que ganen el pan seguro de cada día.	Considering all these factors, the doctor found himself envying those fathers who have strong children who are energetic and courageous, undaunted by any threat; who plunge into life's struggle armed to the teeth; and who nearly always win, uncowed by any setbacks. Oh how he envied those artisans and laborers who teach and train their children, so they may continue working tools or toiling the soil, and thus be sure of earning their daily bread!
El doctor temía la muerte, sin embargo de las firmes ideas de bienaventuranza eterna que había aprendido desde la niñez. Y temía la muerte, porque a pesar de su carácter huraño y taciturno, adoraba a sus hijos, únicos puntos claros en la tenebrosa noche de una hipocondría incurable. No quería ni figurarse que algún día la miseria tocaría las puertas de su	The doctor feared death, notwithstanding the firm ideas of eternal bliss he had learned since childhood. And he feared death, because despite his withdrawn and taciturn nature, he adored his children, the only bright points in the gloomy night of his incurable anxiety. He didn't want to even imagine that some day death would knock on the doors of his poor home, accompanied by her invariable escorts of hunger, nakedness,

pobre hogar, acompañada de su invariable séquito de hambre, desnudez, prostitución y crimen.	prostitution, and crime.
¿Acaso él no había ya visto cuadros y escenas horribles? ¿Acaso no sabía que el hambre más que los malos instintos lleva a los jóvenes la burdel y a los muchachos a la cárcel o al patíbulo? El, como abogado, había varias veces examinado las asquerosas llagas de la sociedad quiteña; él había visto que el sórdido interés o la necia vanidad se disfrazaban de caridad evangélica, había visto que el huérfano, la viuda anciana, el inválido de las luchas civiles, el débil, en fin, eran arrinconados como trastos inútiles a un rincón al cual de vez en cuando, se arrojaban piltrafas como si fueran perros hambrientos, en tanto que para el fraile ocioso o corrompido, tumor de la sociedad moderna, había hasta el vino de la orgía! El, con un espíritu justiciero, había deplorado la gran desigualdad social de la pretendida República, donde el indio infeliz, el cholo humilde y sufrido, el artesano honrado, eran vejados,	Had he not seen the horrible scenes and images? Did he not know that hunger, more than bad instincts, takes young ladies to brothels and young men to jail or the gallows? He, as an attorney, had many times examined the foul wounds of Quito's society; he had seen sleazy interest or foolish vanity disguise itself as evangelical charity; he had seen the orphan, the elderly widow, the invalid veteran of civil battles. The weak, in short, were neglected like useless clutter in a corner, into which, from time to time, scraps are tossed as if to hungry dogs. Meanwhile the idle or corrupt friar, modern society's tumor, guzzled wine from their orgies! He, with a law-bringing spirit, had deplored the great social inequality of the so-called Republic, where the wretched Indian, the humble, longsuffering *cholo*[7], the upstanding craftsman, were vexed, suppressed, even robbed, by four fortunate ones called gentlemen. He had

[7] A person of mixed indigenous and european ancestry, especially one who aspires to move up in social class.

aplastados, robados acaso, por cuatro felices de la suerte llamados caballeros. Él había visto con horror, que la justicia era inflexible para el pobre, el miserable, el desvalido, que al delincuente del pueblo, se lo torturaba, se lo encadenaba, se lo mataba como a un perro rabiosos, y que para el rico, el propietario, el clérigo de campanillas, el noble sin ejecutorias, esa justicia era un maniquí ridículo y que para el gran criminal había aplausos, honores y ventura. El, con ser tan profundamente religioso, ¿acaso no palpaban la ignorancia, la concupiscencia, el orgullo y la avaricia? Y en ese escenario de lodo y de lágrimas debían quedar abandonados sin fuerzas para la defensa, una mujer enferma e inútil y dos niños inexpertos y cobardes; para que fueran presa segura de todas las maldades que él, en su cerebro hipocondríaco, veía desfilar en filas compactas, como batallones de fantásticas quimeras.	watched in horror how justice was inflexible towards the poor, the miserable, the destitute; how the town miscreant would be tortured or chained up or even killed like a rabid dog. But for the wealthy, the owner, the bell-ringing churchman, the noble without public works, this justice was a ridiculous stooge and held out to the great criminal applause, honors, and fortune. Being so profoundly religious, did he not feel that religion was theatrical pageantry, a shelter under which ignorance, lust, pride, and avarice thrived? And on this stage of mud and tears a sick and useless woman with two green and cowardly children would be left defenseless Surely they would become easy prey to all the evils that in his anxious brain parade forth in neat rows, like terrific battalions of chimeras.
V En la Universidad conoció Salvador a un joven provinciano, descendiente de esa hermosa clase media, que no	V At university, Salvador met a young provincial man, descended from that beautiful middle class that doesn't reach

pica muy alto es asuntos de nobleza y que sin embargo, por el talento, las aptitudes y el patriotismo, es la primera de la República. Una simpatía irresistible y antes nunca sentida, llevó al joven quiteño a entablar amistad con Luciano Pérez, amistad únicas y primera en su vida Pérez asimismo simpatizó con Ramírez y desde entonces, los dos formaron una asociación inseparable, aun cuando en lo físico y lo moral eran dos entidades absolutamente contrapuestas. El uno era la fuerza y la energía, el otro la debilidad y el temor, el provinciano parecía por su estatura y esbeltez, un boxeador yankee, y el quiteño rubio, pálido y débil, una señorita enfermiza, Luciano era un huracán, Ramírez un céfiro; el gigante estaba destinado a vencer en todas las luchas de la vida, el chico a perecer en el primer combate. Pérez era una voluntad incontrastable, Ramírez una inteligencia luminosa, pero sin movimiento, y en el mundo el triunfo las más veces es de la primera.	much into matters of nobility, yet nonetheless, by talents, aptitudes, and patriotism, is the first of the Republic. A irresistible congeniality, never before felt, brought the young man from Quito to strike up a friendship with Luciano Perez, the first and only friendship of his life. The two formed an inseparable fellowship, even though in physicality and morality, they were two complete opposites. One was strength and energy, the other weakness and fear. The country boy, due to his stature and leanness, resembled a yankee boxer, and the Quito boy, being blonde, pale, and weak, a sickly young lady. Luciano was a hurricane, Ramirez a zephyr; the giant was destined to win all the battles of life, the shorter to perish in his first fight. Perez was an insuperable will, Ramirez a bright intelligence, but without motion. In this world, triumph most often belongs to the former.
En seres tan contrapuestos ¿por qué nació inconsciente una amistad íntima? Fenómeno bastante común, pues las	They were such opposites How was such a close friendship unconsciously born? It's quite a common

mejores amistades nacen en dos caracteres opuestos. Luciano vió en Salvador un ser débil, inofensivo, bueno; admiró en ese cuerpo raquítico una alma, limpia de la roña del disimulo y de la envidia, que se debatía solitaria, presa de mil desconocidos deseos y ansiosa de otra más fuerte en quien confiarse, y Luciano, amó a Salvador con el cariño del hermano mayor al menor, con el del fuerte y seguro de sus fuerzas al débil; amor sin envidia, sin interés, amor siempre noble y sin embustes. Salvador vió en Luciano, al hombre gigante dominador de la materia y de la voluntad, futuro conquistador de gloria acaso, y le admiró, le temió luego, y después amóle con entusiasmo. He ahí el secreto de la amistad de Luciano y de Salvador.	phenomenon; the best friendships are born of two opposed personalities. Luciano saw a weak being in Salvador, inoffensive, good. In that scrawny body was a soul unstained by the grime of deceit and envy, which he admired, which debated with itself, held by a thousand unknown desires, and eager for someone stronger in whom to trust. And Luciano loved Salvador with that fondness of an elder brother towards his younger, that of the strong and confident in his strength towards the weaker. Love without envy, without intentions, an ever-noble love that is free of trickery. Salvador saw in Luciano, that giant man who dominated matter and will, perhaps the future conqueror of glory, and he admired him, then feared him, then afterwards enthusiastically loved him. And therein lies the secret of the friendship between Luciano and Salvador.
Pérez estudiaba Leyes, pero era un estudiante mediano. Los confusos cimientos del derecho y las formalidades eternas de las leyes, no eran del gusto de ese carácter huracán. Necesitaba una inmensa palestra para la lucha y la del foro	Perez studied law, but he was an average student. The obfuscated foundations of jurisprudence and the never-ending formalities of the laws were not to the liking of his hurricane personality. He needed an immense arena for fighting, and the

parecíale miserable e indigna, las sutilezas de la ley mezquinas y cobardes. Concibió en su intelecto una idea muy elevada de la justicia, a la cual se arrastraba por los cabellos, con demasiada frecuencia, sirviéndose para ello del código y de los jueces. Esta idea y la natural sumisión a los profesores y reglamentos le eran insoportables. La ciudad misma, los petimetres que en ella abundan odiosos; la ropa incómoda que le quitaba todas la libertad de los movimientos que exigía una naturaleza nerviosa y activa, hacíale echar términos más o menos enérgicos. Salvador quería calmar esa perenne excitación, repitiendo a menudo con aire convenido:	bar seemed to him pitiful and unworthy, the subtleties of law petty and cowardly. In his mind he conceived a very high notion of justice, which often had him pulling out his hair, when faced with the code and the judges. This idea and the natural submission to professors and rules were unbearable for him. The city itself, teeming with abhorrent dandies, the uncomfortable clothing that robbed him of all the freedom of movement that his restless and active nature demanded, caused him to spout forth in more or less energetic terms. Salvador sought to calm this perennial excitation, frequently repeating with a firm air:
—Paciencia, Luciano, paciencia…	“Patience, Luciano, patience…”
—¿Paciencia? ¿quieres que tenga paciencia? La virtud más estúpida y negativa. ¿Y he de tenerla viendo el garbo de los chullalevas, el orgullo y necesidad de los jovencitos nobles, la mar de viejas beatas vagando por todas partes, y frailes, y rezos, y procesiones, y campanas? Luego la porquería de estos	“Patience? You want me to be patient? The stupidest and worst virtue. And while watching these show-off’s swagger, the pride and neediness of these lofty young men, the sea of pious old ladies wandering about, friars, prayers, processions, and bells? Then the muck of these codes and the rambling of that

códigos y la majadería del viejo profesor, esa lumbrera de la jurisprudencia que más parece farol de chichería que lámpara del saber, como quieren hacerle creer los adulones. Todo esto me carga..... ajo!..... y el día menos pensado me voy con la música a otra parte, por ejemplo, a sembrar papas, a ordeñar las vacas en el pegujal de mi padre.	old professor, that bright light of jurisprudence which more resembles a trinket lantern than a beacon of knowledge, like the flatterers would have him believe. All this weighs on me, darn it! And each day, with growing absent-mindedness, I follow the piper elsewhere, for example, to plant potatoes, or to milk cows on my father's farmstead."
—Bueno, ¿y qué dirá tu papá?	"Well, and what would your papa say?
—¿Mi padre?: ha de tronar un rato, me ha de amenazar, se ha de hacer el bravo y luego se ha de amansar. ¿Acaso no lo conozco? Después se ha de alegrar de ver a su hijo trabajando y no de abogado tramposo como los que hay ahora por todas partes.	"My father? He'd bellow a bit, threaten me, act all stormy, and then settle down. Don't I know him? He'd come to be glad to see his son working, and not as a swindling lawyer like you see everywhere these days."
—No diga disparates. ¿Y el título? ¿y la sociedad?	"Don't talk rubbish. What about the degree? And society?"
—Valiente cosa es la sociedad nuestra. Si, ¡son tantos los gozos que proporciona! Picardías por todas partes. Frailes y	"Our society, that's a valiant thing. Yes, it brings such pleasures! Roguery everywhere. Lazy friars and monks by the

monjas ociosas a millares; las casas reducidas a conventos; las mujeres preocupadas de lo místico y no de la olla de caldo; los hombres congregantes y unos demonios para las picardías….. —¡Qué pesimista te has hecho!, no es todo así, algo hay de malo, pero hay mucho de bueno en nuestra sociedad que es tan sencilla. —Y tú ¿qué conoces, Luisito Gonzaga que te ruborizas cuando ves una mujer u oyes un ajo? Precisamente, lo bueno que hay en la sociedad es desconocido para ti, y eso bueno son las buenas mozas que abundan en esta tierra de Mariana de Jesús. Y a propósito, ¿hasta cuando desempeñas el papel de casto José?…….	thousands, homes turned into convents, women focused on the mystical and not the stew pot, congregating men who are devils when it comes to roguery." "You've become such a pessimist! It's not all like that. There is some bad, but much in our simple society is good. "And you, you're a little Saint Aloysius[8] who turns red when you see a woman or hear someone say 'darn,' what do you know? In fact, the good in society is unknown to you, and indeed there are plenty of good damsels here in the land of Mariana de Jesus[9]. Speaking of which, how long will you keep playing the part of celibate Joseph?'

[8] St Aloysius Gonzaga was an Italian Jesuit who died while a student.

[9] First catholic saint canonized in what is now Ecuador. Among other things, she was known for fasting from all food except for communion.

—Vaya, que estás ahora con el pico caliente: quien te oyera por primera vez, creería que eres un perdido, y eso no está bueno, es necesario que ya te formalices.	"Goodness, now that you've warmed up your beak, anyone who heard you for the first time would think you were a lost soul. That's not right, it's time for you to put yourself in order."
—¿Formalices? ¡Disparate! Tengo 21 años, soy por tanto ciudadano, dueño de mis acciones y hago lo que me da la gana. Además, soy sano y robusto. Mi padre me manda puntualmente las remesas; mi madre me llena el cuarto de mil golosinas. Soy, pues feliz. Si el cuerpo me pide una trasnochada, o un paseo a Chillo o Cotocollao, le doy gusto. ¿Y por que no lo he de dar? Luego en mi tierra, un pegujal al que he de ir tarde o temprano a trabajar y allí podré entregarme a lo que me gusta: ejercicio al aire libre, correr a caballo, jugar toros o cazar venados. Tú no sabes sobre esos sucios librazos que nada enseñan y arruinan la salud. El día que haya una revolución yo he de ser el primero en tomar el chopo para desterrar del país esos estudios tontos.	"In order? Hogwash! I'm 21 years old, that makes me a citizen, lord of my actions, and I do as I please. On top of that, I'm hale and hearty. My dad sends me my allowance on time, my mom keeps my room filled with treats. I am, in fact, happy. If my body wants to stay up all night, or take a hike through Chillo or Cotocollao, I indulge in that pleasure. And why not? Then on my land, a farmstead where sooner or later I'll go and work, I can devote myself to what I like, exercising in the open air, horseback racing, fighting bulls, or hunting deer. You don't know how good that is, since you've spent your whole life with those dirty old books that teach nothing and ruin your health. The day we have a revolution I should be the first to take up arms to banish these stupid studies from the country."

—¿Quieres revolución y para qué, señor feroz?	"You want revolution? And what for, mister grim?"
—Para todo. Quizá en ella se limpie tanto lodo y se acabe tanta farsa. Quiero revolución, porque estoy cansado de oír que esta tierra es colonia del Papa y que los ecuatorianos somos vasallos de ese vejete…… ¡Ajo! me hierve la sangre con esto. ¿Has leído a Montalvo? ¿A qué no? ¿Por qué lo han prohibido los frailes?	"For everything. Maybe with it we can clean out all the muck and end all the farces. I want a revolution because I am tired of hearing that this land is a papal colony and that Ecuadorians are vassals of that geezer. Darn it! My blood boils over this. Have you read Montalvo[10]? Why not? Because the friars forbade it?"
—Vaya, hoy estás exagerado, parece que te van gustando las malas doctrinas del liberalismo.	"My, you're worked up today, looks like you have a thing for the bad doctrines of liberalism."
—Algo más, señor mío, no sólo me gustan las doctrinas, sino que soy liberal hasta las tuétanos. Sólo los viejos rezadores son de la escuela conservadora.	"Something else, mister, I don't just have a thing for the doctrines, I am liberal to the core. It's only old prayer-chanters who belong to the conservative school."

[10] Juan María Montalvo Fiallos, Ecuadorian anti cleric and opposition writer

—Entonces vas reñido con la Iglesia Católica, la que en el Syllabus y en varias encíclicas condena esa doctrina, la cual según Sardá y Salvan.	"So you're at odds with the Catholic Church, which in the Syllabus of Errors and various encyclicals condemns that doctrine, which according to Sardà y Salvany.."
—No me nombres a ese farsante, que por hacerse gracioso es un necio insoportable; ni me importan una higa el Papa, el Syllabus y el Padre no se quién. ¡Viva el liberalismo!	"Don't bring up that humbug who, to make himself funny, is an unbearable ass. The Pope, the Syllabus, and Father what's-his-name aren't worth a fig to me. Huzzah for liberalism!"
En esta conversación está sintetizado el carácter de los amigos y la pasión dominante en la clase directa: la política religiosa. Ambos amigos defendían con entusiasmo sus respectivas ideas: a veces Luciano se sulfuraba con la calma de Salvador, pero siempre acababa la escaramuza con una larga risotada del primero.	This conversation synthesizes the nature of the friends and the dominant passion of the controlling class: religious politics. Both friends enthusiastically defended their respective ideas: sometimes Luciano simmered at Salvador's calmness, but the skirmish always ended with the former guffawing.

VI	VI
Doña Camila, a causa de su carácter displicente, se había captado muy pocas amistades y éstas escogidas entre gente de sacristía y beatas. En la iglesia de la Compañía gozaba en gran autoridad, porque era presidenta de una de las muchas congregaciones que han establecido los jesuitas, como la mejor manera de ganar prestigio y autoridad en los pueblos.	Doña Camila, due to her disdainful nature, had attracted very few friendships, and those she had were selected from among the vestry and pious church ladies. At the Church of the Society of Jesus, she enjoyed great authority, for she was chair of one of the many congregations the Jesuits had established as the best way of gaining prestige and authority in communities.
Los jesuitas, por su carácter insinuante, maneras cultas, talento innegable y conocimiento del mundo, se llevan la simpatía de las mujeres y hacen el monopolio de la mejor y más encumbrada clase social; como directores espirituales, y desde el confesionario dirigen aún los asuntos de interés privado.	The Jesuits, with their ingratiating nature, polite manners, undeniable talent, and knowledge, gain the affection of women and monopolize the best and loftiest social classes, as spiritual directors. And from the confessional they control even matters of private interest.
La amiga íntima de doña Camila era doña Rosaura Valle, vieja solterona, de aspecto acartonado, larga nariz, ojos miopes rodeados de párpados sanguinolentos; una de esas frutas secas	Rosaura Valle was Doña Camila’s close friend, an old maid with a pasty complexion, long nose, and nearsighted eyes surrounded by blood-stained eyelids: one of those dried up

del celibato, una figura repulsiva en la que sin dificultad se adivinaba a la enemiga acérrima de la belleza, de la alegría y de la juventud. Nada hay más repugnante que estos tipos, restos dejados de las generaciones jóvenes en la sociedad, como deja el oleaje los maderos de los bosques destruidos en la playa.	fruits of celibacy, a repulsive figure whom it wasn't difficult to picture as the bitter enemy of beauty, joy, and youth. There is nothing more repulsive than these types, the flotsam left by young generations on society, like remnants of destroyed forests washed up on the beach.
Rosaura nació fea, de padres plebeyos, artesanos que renegaron de la herramienta y adoptaron la vara y la balanza del comerciante al por menor. Seducida por un estudiante de provincia y abandonada después entregóse primero a la prostitución de menor cuantía, asquerosa y repugnante; luego que el vicio y los años acabaron la poca simpatía que inspiraba a los libertinos, hízose alcahueta y por último, sin renunciar del todo al oficio, entregóse al misticismo, adquiriendo en la iglesia amistades son señoras de la más alta clase social; pues para muchas personas nobles y honradas, la devoción es la mejor ejecutoria para aceptar en sus casas gentes de antecedentes muy dudosos. Pronto fue Rosaura comensal obligado de muchas nobles casas, aconsejando a todos la	Rosaura was born ugly, to lowly parents, artisans who forswore their tools and took up instead the measure and scale of the retail merchant. Seduced and then abandoned by a provincial student, she first turned to small-scale prostitution, foul and sickening. Then when vice and aging finished off what little charm she had for cads, she became a procuress, and finally, without completely resigning from the trade, she devoted herself to mysticism, acquiring in the church friendships with women at the highest social class. For many noble and honorable people, religious devotion is the best route for letting into their homes people of very dubious backgrounds. Rosaura was soon an expected guest at many noble houses, counseling all toward piety, flattering the vanity

piedad, halagando la vanidad de los ricos y el fatuo orgullo de los nobles.	of the wealthy and the conceited pride of the nobles.
A todas las señoras llamaba hijitas. Sabía de corrido muchas oraciones en latín; era diestra en hermenéutica; pitaba de filosofía aprendida al Padre Lacámara, y con todas estas habilidades gozaba de gran prestigio en todas las casas y conventos. El fondo del alma de la beata era hediondo cieno. La envidia y la soberbia le roían las entrañas, si es posible que mujeres como Rosaura las tengan.	She referred to all the ladies as daughters. She knew many Latin prayers by heart, she was skilled at hermeneutics, she could whistle a bit of philosophy learned from Father Bedchamber, and from all these abilities she enjoyed great prestige in every home and convent. At the heart of the church lady's heart lay a stinking mire. Envy and pride gnawed at her guts, if it's possible for women like Rosaura to have them.
Cierta similitud de caracteres físicos y morales había estrechado la amistad de las dos mujeres. Probablemente en lo más recóndito de sus almas había un poquito de odio mutuo, pero en estado embrionario que algún día podría estallar formidable y violento.	A certain similarity of physical and moral features had deepened the friendship of these two women. Probably in the deepest part of their souls there was a bit of mutual hate, but in an embryonic state that one day could formidably and violently burst forth.
Rosaura odió a Mariana desde el día en que la conoció porque Mariana era bonita y de carácter vivo, sin embargo de	Rosaura hated Mariana from the day she met her, because Mariana was pretty and had a lively personality,

las tentativas de doña Camila por cambiarlo; y de ser hermosa y alegre eran para la beata motivo de inquina que apenas disimulaba. Cuando la joven sufría de tarde en tarde, los terribles asaltos del histerismo, que la desfiguraban de atroz manera, el gozo de Rosaura era casi visible, aún cuando aparentaba un sentimiento contrario. Para alma tan ruin la perspectiva de una muerte próxima o la idiotez, era halagüeña ilusión acariciada todos los días.	notwithstanding Doña Camila's attempts to change it. Being beautiful and happy were, to the church lady, reasons for ill will that she barely masked. When the young lady suffered terrible fits of hysteria every afternoon, which disfigured her appallingly, Rosaura's joy was nearly visible, even when she feigned a different sentiment. For such a vile soul, the prospect of approaching death or stupidity was a bleak illusion she stoked every day.
Poco tiempo después de haber entablado amistad con la familia Ramírez, la beata principió una campaña con doble objetivo; hacer sospechosa la conducta de Salvador ante sus padres por la estrechas amistad del joven con Luciano, y convencer a todo trance de las ventajas de la vida monástica, con el fin de que Mariana tomara el velo de un convento de monjas.	A short time after striking up friendship with the Ramirez family, the church lady launched a campaign with two objectives: to make Salvador's conduct suspect to his parents due to his close friendship with Luciano, and to at every chance convince them of the advantages of monastic life, with the goal of Mariana taking the veil in a convent of nuns.
Sentadas un día doña Camila y la beata en el cuarto de la primera, arreglando unas flores de papel y ceras labradas para	One day when Doña Camila and the church lady were sitting in the former's room, arranging some paper flowers and

una próxima fiesta de la congregación de que las dos eran cofradas, lanzó la beata un largo suspiro.	wrought candles for an upcoming feast in the congregation where they were both fellows, the church lady let out a long sigh.
—¿Por qué ese suspiro mi querida Rosaura?	"Why that sigh, my dear Rosaura?"
—¡Ay hijita! … hay tantas cosas que le afligen a una….	"Oh my daughter, there are so many things that grieve one."
—Ud, es sola y no encuentro qué cosa pueda preocuparla. No yo con hijos y….	"Ma'am, you are single, and I don't know what else could vex you. Not like me with children and…"
—¿Yo? Cierto que soy sola y no tengo sino a mi Dios. Pero sufro por mis amigas, sufro por tantas cosas, sobre todo por la sociedad que va caminando a la herejía y yéndose a la impiedad.	"Me? It's true I'm single, and all I have is my God. But I suffer for my friends; I suffer for so many things, above all for this society that's on the path to heresy and growing ungodly."
—Razón tiene Ud. amorcito, mal camino llevamos, pero… ¿Ud. ha sabido algo de nuevo?	"You are right, my love, we are on a bad path. But have you heard of something new?"

—No hijita; pero veo que la juventud va perdiéndose por la falta de religión; el liberalismo está cundiendo como mala hierba, y no está lejano el día en que la religión se acabe y nosotras las creyentes seamos martirizadas.	"No, my daughter, but I see young people getting lost due to a lack of religion, liberalism is sending out tendrils like a weed, and we are not far off from the day when religion will be no more and we believers will be martyrized.
—¡Ay no sé! ... no es tanto misia Rosaurita. Al contrario, la piedad de la juventud de Quito en la última cuaresma fue edificante.	"Oh, I don't know!.... It's not so bad, dear Rosaura. On the contrary, the piety of Quito's young people during this past Lent was uplifting."
—Así es, pero hay algunos jovencitos de pésimas ideas religiosas y, como Ud. sabe, bastan esos pocos para corromper a los demás. Los estudiantes guayaquileños, son toditos impíos y hasta los chagras de las provincias se hacen los masones y descreídos. Sin ir más lejos, aquí entre nos, ese tal Pérez amigo de Salvador es un perdido. ¿Acaso oye misa, acaso se saca el sombrero cuando tocan la elevación las campañas de la Catedral? ¿Cree Ud, que saluda siquiera a los sacerdotes? El tal Luciano es una calamidad....	"That's right, but there are some young men with shocking religious ideas, and, as you know, ma'am, it just takes a few to turn the others rotten. The students from Guayaquil are completely godless, and even the *chagras* from the provinces are becoming freemasons and unbelievers. Without looking further, just between us, that fellow Perez, Salvador's friend, is lost. Does he ever attend mass? Does he ever take off his hat when the cathedral bells chime the

	elevation[11]? Do you believe, ma'am, that he even greets the priests? This fellow Luciano is a disaster…."
—Hola, con que ¿esas tenemos? No he sabido yo tanto. Desde ahora ese caballerito que no me ponga los pies en mi casa. Con razón se hace el mimoso con Salvador, ha de tener proyectos de ganarlo a la impiedad.	"Hello, you're telling me we have that sort? I had no idea. From now on that little gentleman shall not set foot in my house! No wonder he's been so cozy with Salvador; he must have intentions to win him over to godlessness."
—Eso si le ruego que no le diga a Salvador que yo le he informado a Ud. de estas cosas; porque el hijo de Ud. muere por ese chagra tan grandote y tan antipático.	"Yes, but I beg you not to tell Salvador that I let you know about these things, because that son of yours would die for that horrid lumbering *chagra*."
—Al que voy a avisar es a mi marido, para que tome sus medidas y evita quién sabe qué.	"What I'll do is tell my husband, so he can take measures and avoid who-knows-what."
—Además le voy a contar a Ud. amiga mía muy querida, una cosita algo más grave que creo no le ha de gustar. Pues he oído en la calle que el tal Luciano se jacta de ser novio de la	"Also, I am going to tell you, my very dear friend, another little thing, a bit more serious, that I don't think you will like. You see, I have heard on the street that this fellow Luciano

[11] The moment during mass when the consecrated elements are lifted up in front of the attendees.

Marianita. A lo menos, esto me dijo ayer una persona muy formal, cuyo nombre no puede decirse.	boasts of being the sweetheart of dear Mariana. At least, yesterday I was told that by someone very formal, whose name I can't share."
—¿Enamorado de mi hija? ¿Ese chagra rústico? ¿Mi hija de novia de ese patán, de ese perdido, de ese impío? … ¡jaja!… Primero, quisiera verla muerta a mi hija que de mujer de ese canalla.	"In love with my daughter? That country *chagra*? My daughter, the sweetheart of that lout, that lost soul, that sinner? Hahaha, I'd rather see her dead than see my daughter as the wife of that blackguard."
Doña Camila levantóse del sillón donde estaba sentada, pálida temblándose los escasos músculos de su cara, abriendo las ternillas de la nariz, con los ojos centelleantes, mostrando en toda la apergaminada fisonomía los signos de salvaje cólera, tan frecuente en esas naturalezas débiles y misantrópicas.	Doña Camila got up from the chair where she was seated, pale, the meager muscles of her face trembling, nostrils flaring, her eyes flickering, her whole shriveled body showing signs of savage rage, as is so common in these weak hateful characters.
—Mi hija pretendida por ese pillo, por ese chagra, por ese azota calles… No. No. Dios mío, Virgen Santísima del Quinche, denme paciencia y conformidad. Por eso han sido los cariños	"My daughter, wooed by that scoundrel, that *chagra*, that pavement pounder… no no, my God, most holy Virgin of Quinche,[12] give me patience and forbearance. No wonder that

[12] Patron of Ecuador

del chagra a Salvador, a ese tonto de mi hijo; por eso eran las visitas de todos los días, los regalitos; y nosotros ciegos y lelos sin ve nada. Y ese canalla, hijo de quien también será, quien sabe si el padre sea un chagra de pie en suelo…	*chagra* has been kind to Salvador, my dummy of a son, no wonder he would visit every day, the little gifts, and we were witless and blind unable to see anything. And that riffraff, son of who-knows-who, who knows if his father is a barefooted *chagra*."
Doña Rosaura sí sabía que el padre de Luciano no era el que creía su amiga; pues él fue el que la sedujo cuando era estudiante, por uno de esos caprichos de la vida estudiantil. Odiaba de muerte al antiguo amante y este odio se extendía a Luciano, verdadero retrato del que veintiséis años antes la conquistó después de una cortísima campaña.	Doña Rosaura knew very well that Luciano's father wasn't who her friend believed. In fact, it had been him who had seduced her when he had been a student, one of those follies of student life. She hated her former lover to death, and that hate extended to Luciano, the spitting image of the one who twenty-six years earlier had conquered her heart with a brief campaign.
Satisfecha la ruin beata de haber producido el efecto deseado con ese chisme, continuó impertérrita en la odiosa faena.	Satisfied that her gossip had brought forth the desired effect, the vile church lady went on, undeterred in her hateful toiling.

—Sí hijita, vea lo que es el mundo, Salvador, el joven que en Quito ha sido modelado por su piedad y devoción, es el íntimo amigo de ese tal Pérez, que ya es muy conocido, por todos, como joven de pésimas ideas religiosas. Ojalá sólo haya sido amistad que han tenido los dos. Aquí entre nosotras, le diré, misia Camilita, que yo me temo, mucho por la inocencia y la castidad de Salvador y que ya este pobre joven sea perdido para Dios y su santa Iglesia.	"Yes, my daughter, see what the world has become. Salvador, the young man who has been a model of piety and devotion for Quito, is the close friend of this fellow Perez, who is quite well known—by everyone—as a young man with shocking religious ideas. I hope it's just friendship the two have shared. Here between us, I will tell you dear Camila, that I fear greatly for Salvador's innocence and chastity, and that this poor young man may be lost to God and His holy Church."
—Ni para pensar semejante horror. Si mi hijo se hiciera liberal, lo desconociera como mi hijo. Yo, ¿oye? Yo misma, la madre que le parió, sería capaz de matarlo, porque primero verlo muerto que de radical.	"I won't even consider such a horrible thing. If my son were to turn liberal, I would disown him as my son. Me! Do you hear? Myself, the mother who birthed him, I would be able to kill him, because I'd rather see him dead than a radical."
—Volviendo a otra cosas. Sabrá Ud, que esta mañana fui al locutorio del Carmen y pude hablar con la madre Transfiguración del Señor El alma salta de gozo conversando con esa santa. Pondera la monjita las delicias de la vida del	"Getting back to other things, you know, ma'am, that this morning I went to call on the Carmen Convent and spoke with Mother Transfiguration of the Lord. My soul leapt for joy when speaking with that saint. That old nun contemplates the delights of cloistered life. Who can be as certain as she is of

claustro. ¡Quién como ella que tiene segura la salvación eterna! La verdad que las monjitas escogen la mejor parte. —Yo también soy de su misma opinión. La dicha más completa debe ser la del convento. Yo erré mi vocación, y eso que mi tío, el canónigo Quiroz, quiso facilitarme todo, y por tonta no acepté. Pero si yo no logré esa dicha quiero que la tenga mi hija. Todos los días le predico sobre este punto y creo que he de conseguir, por que mucho le pido a Dios y la Virgen. Usted también ayúdeme a esta buena obra…… y con eso allá esté el chagra hecho el enamorado.	having eternal salvation! Truly the nuns choose the better portion." "I share that opinion as well. The most complete bliss must be that found in the convent. I erred in my vocation, and in fact my Uncle, Cannon Quiroz, wanted to arrange it all for me, and foolishly I didn't accept it. But If I couldn't achieve that bliss, I want my daughter to have it. I preach this point to her daily, and I think I'll get it, because I ask it often of God and the Virgin. You can also help me in this good work, and on that note over there is that *chagra* who thinks he's in love."
VII En la monótona vida de la familia Ramírez, fue un verdadero rayo de sol la amistad entablada con Luciano. Don Jacinto fue pronto conquistado por ese carácter vehemente, alegre y generoso. La eterna muria del abogado desparecía siquiera un instante, como si el inalterable buen humor del	VII In the monotony that was the Ramirez family life, the friendship struck up with Luciano was a true beam of sunlight. Don Jacinto was soon won over by his impulsive, cheerful, and generous personality. The lawyer's ever present gloominess would disappear, if only for an instant, as if the rural boy's

provinciano fuera contagioso e hiciera concebir al doctor alguna halagüeña esperanza de algo muy hermoso pero desconocido. Comprendía que bajo la aparente superficialidad del joven, se escondía una alma grande, capaz de las más atrevidas concepciones y conquistadora hasta de lo imposible.	steadfast cheery mood were contagious and caused the doctor to catch some rosy hope of something quite beautiful yet unknown. He understood that beneath the apparent superficiality of the young man hid a great soul, capable of the most daring notions and able to conquer the impossible.
Doña Camila, al principio fría y ceremoniosa, cedió poco a poco, merced a la invencible simpatía de Luciano y más que por eso, por la innata afección que tiene la mujer o a lo muy hermoso a lo muy fuerte, y el joven era uno y otro.	Doña Camila, at first cold and ceremonious, gave in bit by bit, won over by Luciano's unbeatable likeability, and more than that, by the innate affection women have for that which is very beautiful or very strong, and the youth was both the one and the other.
Mariana lo vio la primera vez con un secreto temor, casi con antipatía, como si el instinto le advirtiera que, en caso de lucha, él sería el vencedor. Joven ella, hermosa, poseedora de una naturaleza impresionable, con una vehemencia de carácter que en vano había querido se eliminar a atenuar con el rigorismo religioso, era un combustible presto a ser encendido. Faltaba la chispa y Luciano fue esa chispa. Trató algún tiempo	When Mariana first saw him, it was with a secret fear, almost dislike, as if instinct warned her that, should there be a fight, Luciano would be the victor. She, young, beautiful, and having an impressionable nature, with an impulsive personality that religious rigor had vainly attempted to eliminate and temper, was fuel ready to be lit. All that lacked was the spark, and Luciano was that spark. She tried to resist for some time,

de resistir, de engañarse a sí misma, imaginándose que ella estaba cubierta de imperfecciones y él de antipatías; que era un disparate amar a un provinciano de oscuros antecedentes, que pronto ser iría él a su aldea o pueblo para no volver más; pero la ficción duró poco y cayó como caen esos engañosos sofismas del corazón y terminó al fin por convencerse íntimamente que amaba a Luciano. Por lo demás, era él el único joven que conocía con alguna intimidad. Habiendo vivido antes tan retiradas, le parecía que el provinciano era el tipo ideal formado en sus ensueños de muchacha romántica, cuando leyó en el colegio alguna rara novela burlada a la vigilancia de las monjas, o cuando oyó hablar de amoríos a sus condiscípulas más expertas en los lances del mundo. ¿Hermoso? O era sin duda alguna. ¿Inteligente? Parecía serlo; y sobre todo tenía ese misterioso poder tan raro en el hombre: el poder seductor instantáneo. De él se desprendía algún desconocido efluvio que mareaba pronto; los ojos sobre todo eran temibles. Los triunfos de Byron, del duque de Rivas y de otros célebres seductores	to convince herself otherwise, imagining that she was covered with imperfections and that he disliked her, that it was absurd to love a provincial boy with a murky background, that he would soon go back to his village or town and never come back, but that illusion didn't last long, and crumbled like such fallacies of the heart do, and she finally admitted to her inner self that she did in fact love Luciano. Besides, he was the only young man she had been able to know with any degree of closeness. Having lived so isolated before, the country boy seemed to her like that ideal type formed in her romantic girlhood reveries, when she was in high school and read a rare novel snuck in under the nun's vigilance, or when she heard talk of dalliances from her classmates who had more worldly experience. Handsome? Oh, without a doubt. Intelligent? He seemed to be, and above all he had that mysterious power that is so rarely found in men: the power of instant seduction. He exuded some unknown outflow that was dizzying; his eyes above all were fierce. The triumphs of Lord Byron, of the Duke

eran debidos, según se dice, a esa rara propiedad física si se quiere, pero innegable.	of Rivas[13], and other celebrated seductors were due to, as it was said, that rare yet undeniable physical property, if you will.
Mariana era un sujeto apto según el lenguaje hipnótico, muy adecuado para sufrir con resultados positivos esas impresiones. Su organismo fisiológico era un factor importantísimo. Engendrada por un padre poseído siempre de una idea única y lúgubre; concebida y amamantada por una madre mística, salió ella un producto híbrido, delicado, soñador, apropiado para la alucinación mística o los furores del libertinaje desvergonzado y sistemático. En el cambio de la niñez a la pubertad, el histerismo se había presentado con tremendos ataques, que con dificultad combatía a la medicina empírica y sólo atenuaba algún tanto; porque de tarde en tarde asomaban más terribles, causando perturbaciones profundas en el organismo y debilitando la voluntad con visiones de ángeles y demonios.	Mariana was what hypnotic language would call an “apt subject,” quite suited to experience positive results from these impressions. Her physiological organism was a very important factor. Sired by a father who was always possessed by a single dismal thought, conceived and nursed by a mystical mother, a hybrid product came out in her, delicate, dream-like fit for mystical hallucination or the frenzy of shameless and systematic licentiousness. In the change from childhood to puberty, hysteria had shown up with dreadful attacks, which empirical medicine struggled to fight off, and only lessened by some degree. Each afternoon they grew more terrible, causing profound turmoil in her organism and weakening her will with visions of angels and demons.

[13] Ángel de Saavedra y Ramírez de Baquedano, 3rd Duke of Rivas, a Spanish playwright and poet

Luciano, por su parte, pronto sintió en su corazón joven el nacimiento de una verdadera pasión. El también estaba bien organizado para el amor, él también era vehemente y a veces soñador y poeta. Y ¿quién no lo es a los veinte años si se tiene talento, salud y el alma no está marchita por vicios o desgracias precoces? El instinto le advirtió que Mariana le amaba, y luego sorprendió miradas elocuentes, frases aisladas, entonaciones extrañas, rubores súbitos, indicios todos, suficientes para poder ver algo en el corazón de una mujer joven.	Luciano, for his part, soon felt in his young heart the birth of a true passion. He was also well suited to love; he was also impulsive and sometimes a dreamer and poet. And, who isn't at the age of twenty; if they have talent, health, and their soul isn't withered by vices or premature misfortunes? Instinct alerted him that Mariana loved him, and then he was astonished by poignant glances, stray phrases, odd inflections, sudden blushes, all sufficient signs to see something in the heart of a young woman.
Pero, aunque enamorado, comprendía que Mariana no podía ser su mujer: los obstáculos eran muchos; le constaba la intransigencia de los Ramírez en asuntos religiosos y políticos, intransigencia notable ya en Quito como la más absoluta, y el nunca, por más enamorado que estuviere de Mariana, podía cometer la farsa de aparentar simpatía e ideas y principios que le eran odiosos. ¡No, nunca, él, Luciano Pérez, por honradez y dignidad, haría esa claudicación! Luego los Ramírez, con razón	But, while he was in love, he understood that Mariana couldn't be his wife: the obstacles were plentiful; the rigidity of the Ramirez family in political and religious matters was apparent to him, a rigidity noteworthy even in Quito as the strictest. And he could never, however much in love with Mariana he was, commit the farce of feigning sympathies and ideas and principles which were hateful to him. No! He, Luciano Perez, by integrity and dignity, could never sell out like

o sin ella, pisaban muy alto en asuntos de sangre y estaban orgullosos de ser quiteños y tener amistades en la alta clase social, para la cual los provincianos son chagras y cholos despreciables e indignos de pretender casarse con las señoritas nobles de Quito. Sin embargo, él hacía lo humanamente posible para llevarse a Mariana, pues no era hombre que hiciera gran caso de los obstáculos así fuesen religiosos o sociales.	that! Also, the Ramirez's, rightfully or not, were very high-strung in matters of blood, and were very proud of being from Quito and having acquaintances in the high social class, to whom provincials were worthless *chagras* and *cholos* and unworthy of pursuing marriage with the noble young ladies of Quito. Nevertheless, he did all that was humanly possible to win over Mariana. He wasn't the sort of man who paid much attention to obstacles, whether they were religious or social.
Ambos estaban persuadidos de su mutuo cariño y con todo, nunca pudieron tener una conversación a solas en la que pudieran decirse lo que ambos sentían. Ambos eran amantes vergonzosos, por tanto los más apasionados, pues la vergüenza nace de la pasión exagerada y no tibia y mentirosa.	Both were convinced of their mutual affection, and, all told, they were never able to have a conversation alone in which they could tell each other what they both felt. Both were embarrassed lovers, and therefore the more passionate. Shame is born of extreme passion, not lukewarm and deceitful.
Así estaban las cosas, cuando la beata hizo la denuncia de las pretensiones de Luciano que ella había podido ver merced a su larga experiencia en las malas artes.	That was the state of things when the church lady had reported Luciano's intentions, which she had been able to see thanks to her long experience of foul play.

Doña Camila, excitada hasta la rabia, tuvo una conferencia con su marido. Don Jacinto aunque más intransigente, era más humano y conocedor de la vida, y comprendió el amor de los dos jóvenes y trató de calmar a su mujer, aconsejándole prudencia y dejando al tiempo la resolución del problema. Doña Camila, resuelta a proceder de lleno en todo, desobedeció a su marido, al que llamó cegatón y necio y airada, dio un formidable empellón a la puerta y llamó a gritos a su hija.	Doña Camila, driven to rage, conferred with her husband. Don Jacinto, while more rigid, was more humane and knowledgeable of life. He understood the love between the two youths and tried to calm his wife, counseling her to be prudent and to let time fix the problem. Doña Camila, resolved to completely carry out everything, disobeyed her husband, who she called blind and a fool. Irate, she shoved the door formidably and shouted for her daughter.
—Ven acá —díjole, tan luego como Mariana penetró asustada por los gritos—, ven acá, —repitió—, quiero tener una explicación contigo. Y se irguió con su alta estatura delante de la muchacha que acababa de tomar asiento delante de su madre.	"Come here!" she said, as soon as Mariana stepped in, started by the shouts. "Come here," she repeated, "I want an explanation from you." And she rose up with her tall height in front of the girl who had just sat down in front of her mother.
—¿De qué se trata mamá? ¡Me asusté con los gritos!	"What's this about, Mama? The shouts frightened me!"

—Necesito que me hables la verdad como al confesor. Cuidado mientas. ¿Qué impresión te ha causado Luciano Pérez?	"I need you to tell me the truth, like a confession. Don't you dare lie. What impression has Luciano Perez made on you?"
Mariana, sorprendida así tan de repente, no atinó a concertar la respuesta, balbuceo alguna cosa que su madre no alcanzó a oír, púsose pálida, luego roja de vergüenza y bajó los ojos…	Mariana, suddenly caught unexpectedly, couldn't manage to put together an answer. She babbled something her mother couldn't make out, grew pale, and then red with shame and lowered her eyes.
—Hola, hola, eso tenemos —dijo doña Camila con acento burlesco—. ¡Qué pudorosa estás hijita mía! Contesta sí o no. ¿Quieres a Luciano Pérez?	"Hello, hello, what have we here?" said Doña Camila with a burlesque accent. "You're so modest, my little daughter! Answer me yes or no: do you love Luciano Perez?"
La muchacha, repuesta ya un tanto de la primera sorpresa y haciendo lujo de valor y franqueza, como si otra alma nueva hubiera sustituido a la antigua tan cobarde y tímida, levantó los ojos, clavólos en los de su madre como en señal de desafío y contestó marcando bien las palabras.	The girl, recovered a bit from the first shock, and putting up a front of bravery and sincerity, as if a new, different soul had replaced the old cowardly, timid one, raised her eyes and met those of her mother definitely and answered, choosing her words well.

—¡Sí amo, sí le quiero a Luciano!... ¿Acaso sólo yo no debo querer alguna vez?... ¿es crimen amar a un hombre como Luciano?	"Yes, I love him! Yes, I care for Luciano! Am I the only one who shouldn't love once? Is it a crime to love a man like Luciano?"
—Atrevida, cínica, —aulló doña Camila, levantando el brazo como si quisiera golpear a su hija—, ¿te atreves, desvergonzada, a decir que quieres a ese perdido, a ese impío, a ese azota calles, a ese chagra hijo de no se que patán?... Te equivocas mucho, mala hija, si esperas que nosotros tus padres, aprobemos nunca esos amoríos… Quiero verte muerta, antes que mujer de ese bribón!... ¿Para eso has recibido la educación en el mejor colegio de Quito? ¿Este es el fruto de nuestros sacrificios? Dime, ¿esas son las ideas católicas que no me he cansado de inculcarte?	"You brash cynic!" howled Doña Camila, raising her arm as if to beat her daughter. "How dare you, you hussy, tell me that you love that lost soul, that sinner, that pavement pounder, that *chagra,* son of who-knows-what lout?.... You're a very mistaken, naughty daughter, if you hope that we, your parents, would ever approve of these dalliances…. I'd rather see you dead than the wife of that scalawag!... Is that what we sent you to the best school in Quito for? Is this the fruit of our sacrifices? Tell me, are these the Catholic ideas that I have tirelessly instilled in you?"
Mariana, la humilde Mariana, sintió que algo extraño, algo anormal invadía su ser, una oleada de rabia ciega le ahogaba, la sangre africana que había en ella se rebeló en ese momento. Levantóse del asiento, pálida, con los ojos	Mariana, humble Mariana, felt that something strange, something abnormal, took over her being, a wave of bind rage drowned her, the African blood within her rebelled in that moment. She rose from the seat, pale with blood-red eyes, teeth

sanguinolentos, los dientes apretados con los ojos de bacante enloquecida y con voz sorda que salía de una garganta estrangulada contestó: —¿Quiere Ud, que hable? Pues hablaré la verdad ¿Oye? La verdad. Sí, sí, sí quiero a Luciano Pérez, al chagra Pérez, al hereje, al azota calles y estoy resuelta a casarme con él si él quiere y si no, a ser su querida. No puedo ni deseo estar por más tiempo en una casa que es una sepultura. No quiero quedarme de vestidora de santos. ¿Comprende? ¿De cuándo acá es un crimen amar a un hombre? Dígame Ud. Ya estoy hasta la corona de llevar una vida que no es otra que una muerte lenta. Estoy casada de rezar en las iglesias y de ver sólo frailes y beatas… A Salvador, Uds. sólo Uds., le han echado a perder, porque Salvador, mal que les pese, es un hombre inútil, un bonachón bueno para fraile, incapaz de hacer nada por…	clenched, and her eyes blank with madness. A dull voice that came out of a strangled throat answered: "You want me to speak? Well, I shall speak the truth. Do you hear me? The truth. Yes, yes, yes, I love Luciano Perez, the *chagra* Perez, the heretic, the pavement pounder, and I am determined to marry him if he wants, and if not, to be his sweetheart. I cannot nor do I want to stay any longer in a house that is a grave. I don't want to be stuck dressing saints. Do you understand? Since when is it a crime to love a man here? Tell me, ma'am, I am fed up with living a life that is no less than a slow death. I am tired of praying in churches and only seeing friars and church ladies….You and only you have let Salvador go to waste, because Salvador, like it or not, is a useless man, a goody two-shoes, fit to be a friar, unable to do anything for…"

—¡Insolente…….. infame, canalla! —dijo a gritos doña Camila, echando espuma por la boca y lanzándose contra su hija.	"Insolent, wicked villain!" shouted Doña Camila, foam flying from her mouth and hurling herself against her daughter.
—¿Qué es eso? —dijo una voz grave…….. Era la de don Jacinto que oyendo los gritos, entraba al cuarto.	"What's this?" said a solemn voice… It was that of Don Jacinto who, hearing the shouts, had entered the room.
—Ya ves Jacinto, ¡qué ha de ser, sino que Dios nos castiga! Oye lo que dice esta canalla… ¡óyele y mátala…	"See, Jacinto, I don't know, God must be punishing us! Listen to what this villain says, listen and kill her!"
—Papa… papacito… —dijo Mariana lanzándose donde su padre—. Defiéndame Ud., mamá me quiere pegar porque le hablo la verdad… óigame ¿es malo querer? ¿he cometido alguna falta? Ud. también para casarme con mamá la ha de haber amado y sólo para mí es un delito!…	"Papa…Daddy…." said Mariana, throwing herself toward her father. "Defend me, Mama wants to beat me because I told her the truth…listen, is it wrong to love? Have I committed an offense? You too, to marry Mama, must have loved her, and it's only a crime when I do it!…"
Todas estas preguntas que encerraban verdaderos reproches, entrecortados por los sollozos, las decía Mariana con aire de convencimiento, oculta ya la ira en el fondo de su alma.	All of these questions, which contained true rebukes, broken up by sobs, were asked by Mariana with an air of conviction, the wrath already buried in the depths of her soul.

Quedaba la joven sencilla y cándida obediente, enferma de histerismo; el que no tardó en presentarse en terrible acceso, acompañado de ronquidos, gritos y espumarajos sanguinolentos que salían entre labios contraídos y lívidos, como si fueran los estertores últimos de una bestia agónica.	The girl was left plain and candid, obedient, ill with hysteria, which did not tarry in showing up with terrible reach, accompanied by grunts, shouts, and bloody frothing that spurt out of her tight, livid lips, as if they were the final throes of an agonized great beast.
Don Jacinto, pálido, la vista clavada en su hija moribunda, caída en un sofá como masa inerte de la que se escapaban silbidos como de serpiente en celo, pensaba..... ¿en qué pensaba? En la obsesión de siempre, en el viejo Ramírez aplastado bajo una enorme viga y en la madre asfixiada; en los horrores de aquel día inolvidable. Después veía el hogar que el había formado, un hogar frío, sin afecciones, sin goces; una esposa de mal carácter, una hija herida ya por una enfermedad incurable y el primogénito, el amado de su alma, con el inexplicable estigma de los que han de morir jóvenes. Y sus ojos ya no vieron a la hija acurrucada en su sofá, ni a la mujer que fruncido el entrecejo dirigía la vista a algo imaginario, sino	Don Jacinto, pale, eyes glued to his deathly daughter, fell on a sofa like an inert mass from which escaped wheezes like from a serpent in heat. Where were his thoughts? On the same obsession as always: the elder Ramirez crushed under a massive beam, his mother smothered, the horrors of that unforgettable day. Afterward, he looked at the home he had built, a cold home, without affection, without bliss; an ill-natured wife, a daughter already stricken with an incurable illness, and his firstborn, the love of his soul, with the inexplicable brand of those doomed to die young. And his eyes no longer saw his daughter curled up on the sofa, nor his wife who furrowed her brow staring at something imaginary, but a dismal scene that drew precise and well-detailed images in a

a cuadros lúgubres que se dibujaban precisos y ricos de detalles en una imaginación enferma e hipocondríaca.	sick and hypochondriac imagination.

2. Application Materials

2.1 cover letter

John Mark Maust

525 Westmoreland Pl

Jackson, TN, EEUU

22 de enero del 2025

Editorial XXXX
Valencia, España

Estimados señores,
Les escribo para postularme como traductor de obras literarias latinoamericanas. Tengo los conocimientos, experiencias, y habilidades para realizar una traducción al inglés que llega al lector angloparlante moderno y a la vez es fiel al contexto original.
Soy un traductor e intérprete bicultural, mis padres son estadounidenses más yo nací en Tegucigalpa, Honduras y también viví en Costa Rica y el Ecuador durante mis años formativos. Estas experiencias me inculcaron un conocimiento íntimo de la cultura hispanoamericana. Profundicé y amplié mis conocimientos en mis estudios en The University of New Orleans donde estudié un grado en Estudios Internacionales con un enfoque en política internacional y un Máster en Lenguas Romanas en el cual se enfocó mucho en la cultura y literatura del mundo hispanoparlante.
En cuanto a mi vida profesional, como intérprete jurídico y médico actualmente facilito la comunicación entre personas de toda latinoamerica y profesionales estadounidenses. Como puente intercultural, entiendo como trasladar conceptos de una cultura a la otra.
Además, estoy terminando un segundo máster en Traducción Profesional Inglés-Español en la Universitat Rovira i Virgili en Tarragona, España. En el transcurso de mis estudios ahí he refinado y lustrado mis habilidades de traducir, en particular con una asignatura de traducción literaria.
Como demostrado, mis experiencias personales, profesionales, y académicas se suman de forma ideal para ser traductor de obras literarias latinoamericanas al inglés.
Mi tarifa para traducción literaria en Euros es 15 por página, y una vez que se confirma los textos que se van a traducir podemos determinar la cronología del proyecto.

Atentamente,

John Mark Maust

2.2 CV

John Mark Maust

Expert in cross-cultural communication

John Mark Maust
525 Westmoreland Pl
Jackson, TN, 38301

504.273.9862
johnmarkm@gmail.com

Education

Universitat Rovira i Virgili
September 2023 - June 2025, Tarragona, Spain

University Master's Degree in Professional English-Spanish Translation

The University of New Orleans
June 2011 - May 2013, New Orleans, LA

Master of Arts in Romance Languages, Spanish Concentration

The University of New Orleans
August 2006 - May 2010, New Orleans, LA

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, Spanish Minor

Experience

Department of Defense/Language Consultant
National Language Service Corps,
1550 Crystal Drive, Suite 300 Arlington, VA 22202-4158
July 2023-PRESENT
Simultaneous interpreter for the US Commission on Civil Rights Advisory Committee for Puerto Rico

TN Administrative Office of the Courts/ Freelance Interpreter
Nashville City Center, Suite 600, 511 Union Street Nashville, TN 37219
March 2023-PRESENT
Interpret simultaneously and consecutively in juvenile, criminal, and civil courts as a registered interpreter

Tennessee Language Center/ Contract Interpreter
220 French Landing Dr, Suite B, Nashville, TN 37243
February 2023-PRESENT
Interpret consecutively and simultaneously for a variety of appointments both medical and legal

West Tennessee Healthcare/Contract Interpreter
May 2021 - PRESENT, Jackson, TN
Interpret for a variety of medical appointments
Provide sight translation of documents that have not yet been translated
Serve as cultural mediator
Adhere to standard code of ethics for medical interpreters

Lane College/ Spanish Instructor
August 2017 - May 2023, Jackson, TN
Taught introductory Spanish, 5 courses per semester
Used online resources to supplement and reinforce classroom instruction
Coordinated Faculty Development Workshops (2018-2020)
Facilitated Faculty Workshop on using interactive technology in the classroom (Fall 2019)
Served as a Student Completion Specialist

ReNEW Schaumburg Elementary/ ESL Teacher
August 2015 - June 2017, New Orleans, LA
Taught ESL to students from PK-8.
Translated documents and communicated with any Spanish-speaking parents who had limited English proficiency

NorthStar Academy/ Spanish Teacher
July 2016 - January 2018, Southaven, MS
Taught AP Spanish and Spanish 3
Communicated with students via Skype and email

Delgado Community College/ Adjunct Spanish Instructor
June 2013 - July 2015, New Orleans, LA
Taught four or five sections of Elementary Spanish I or Elementary Spanish II per semester

Elaine P. Nunez Community College / Adjunct Spanish Instructor
August 2014 - May 2015, Chalmette, LA
Taught Elementary Spanish I and II

Calvary Baptist School / Spanish Teacher
August 2013 - May 2015, New Orleans, LA
Taught weekly Spanish classes, adapted curriculum to teach students from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

Presentations Given

"Language Exposure Through Media-Broadening our register and understanding the range of regional variations in Spanish. " Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators CEU, virtual meet and greet Nov 2023

"Inca Influence on the Culture of Ecuador" Lane College Faculty Lecture Series, Jackson, TN, Nov 2022

"Virtual Learning with the Tik Tok Generation" Tennessee Foreign Language Teachers Association, Franklin, TN, Nov 2021

"Best Practices for Engaging Students Virtually" Lane College Student Completion Specialist Training, Jackson TN, June 2020

"Interactive Technology in the Classroom II" Lane College Faculty Development Series, Jackson TN, September 2019

"Interactive Technology in the Classroom I" Lane College Faculty Development Series, Jackson TN, September 2019

"Songs of Exile, Nineteenth Century Ireland and Present Day Ecuador" College English Association, New Orleans, LA, March 2019

"Smart Phones: Enemy or Tool" Updating Methodological Knowledge, Chimborazo National University, Riobamba, Ecuador, June 2018

"Learning as a Lifestyle, Not Just in Class" Updating Methodological Knowledge, Chimborazo National University,

Riobamba, Ecuador, June 2018
"Language in Context: Expanding L2 Through Literature and History" Updating Methodological Knowledge, Chimborazo National University, Riobamba, Ecuador, June 2018
"Creating Language-Learning Goals For Students and Faculty" Updating Methodological Knowledge, Chimborazo National University, Riobamba, Ecuador, June 2018

Additional Training

-Certified, Notarized and Apostilled Translations in U.S. webinar by the American Translators Association (November 2023)
-Reconnecting. Spotlight on Human Trafficking, Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators Annual Conference, 5 CEUs completed (October 2023)
-Fundamentals for Medical Interpreters: HIPAA and the NCIHC Confidentiality Tenet, 1 CEU webinar for medical interpreters by the Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators (September 2023)
-Mental Health Interpreting: Cultural Concepts of Distress, webinar by the American Translators Association (September 2023)
-Interpreting Insults from Spanish into Your Target Language, webinar by the American Translators Association (September 2023)
-Ethics in the Trenches, 1 CEU webinar for court interpreters by the Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators (August 2023)
-Traducción del Inglés al Español: Teoría y Práctica, 6 credit graduate continuing education course, Universidad Nacional de Educación a distancia (July 2023)
-Fall Hazard Terminology for Spanish Interpreters, 2 CEU webinar for court interpreters by the Tennessee Language Center (April 2023)
-Wilderness First Aid, American Safety and Health Institute (July 2022)
-Mission and Language Training -Spanish, National Language Service Corps online course (October 2021)
-Court Interpreter Ethics and Skills Building Workshop, 14 hour synchronous online workshop by Tennessee Language Center (June 2021)
-Aprendizaje de Lenguas con Materiales Digitales, 6 credit graduate continuing education course, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain (June 2021)
-Advanced Student Engagement workshop, Strategic Education Inc. (May 26 2021)
-Introduction to Applied Linguistics and TESOL, 6 week online MOOC, University of Leicester (March 3, 2021)
-Introduction to Mendeley Reference Manager, 40 Hr Training ALTAS PRIORIDADES CONSULTORES, Riobamba, Ecuador (June 15, 2020)

-Intrusive, Appreciative, and Trauma-Informed Advising, Lane Institute (July 29, 2020)
-VitaNavis® Certification Program, The Myers-Briggs Company (July 31, 2020)
-Introduction to Distance Education for Academics, Strategic Education, Inc. (Aug 6, 2020)
-Designing Digital Teaching and Learning, Blackboard Academy (Aug 15, 2020)
-High Impact Online Teaching and Learning Practices, Gardner Institute (Aug 7, 2020)

Professional Memberships

American Translators Association (ATA)

Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators (TAPIT)

National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT)

American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)

Asociación de Scouts del Ecuador

American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP)
College English Association

National Language Service Corps (NLSC)

Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association (TFLTA)

American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

Language Proficiency

ALTA English Listening & Speaking Test - General: 12 - Superior (February 2023)

ALTA Spanish Listening & Speaking Test - General: 11 - Superior Minus (February 2023)

Time Spent in Spanish-Speaking Countries

Honduras: December 8, 1987 - June 9, 1996 (8 years)

Costa Rica: Dec 27, 1998-August 13, 1999 (7 months)

Ecuador: August 14, 1999-July 7, 2006 (7 years)

Ecuador: June 1, 2007-August 1, 2007 (2 months)

Ecuador: December 11, 2007 -January 7, 2008 (1 month)

Ecuador: June 3, 2008 - August 12, 2008 (2 months)

Mexico: July 4, 2009 - July 10, 2009(1 week)

Ecuador: August 4, 2009-Aug 22, 2009 (2 weeks)

Ecuador: December 9, 2011 - December 28, 2011 (3 weeks)

Ecuador: December 17, 2017 - January 2, 2017 (2 weeks)

Ecuador: June 18, 2018 - July 11, 2018 (3 weeks)

Ecuador: May 13, 2019 - June 14, 2019 (1 month)

Ecuador: September 24, 2022 - October 8, 2022 (2 weeks)

Honors & Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award, Lane College Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, 2019

Faculty Diversity Award, Lane College, 2019

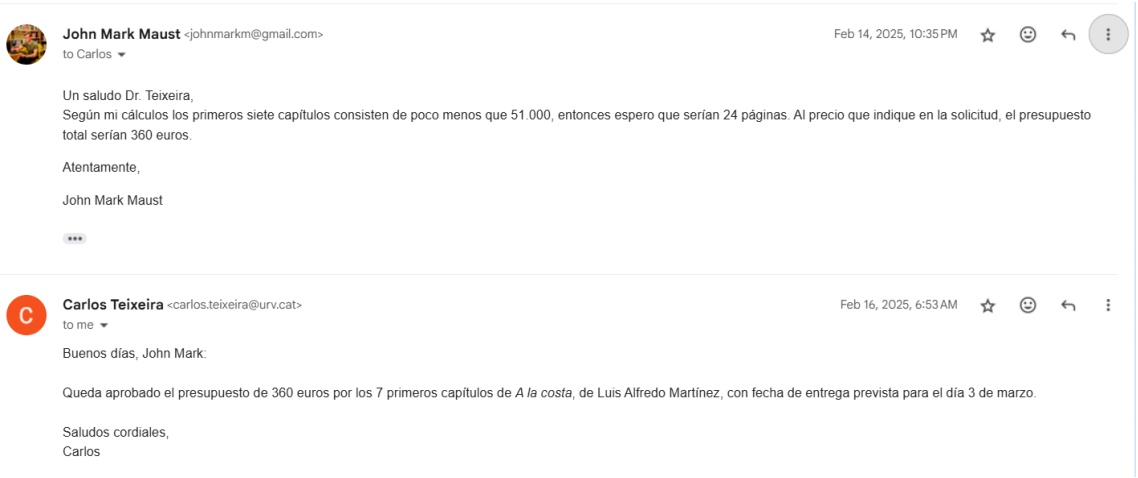
Faculty of the Year Nominee, Lane College, 2019

Wood Badge Leadership Award, Boy Scouts of America 2013

Stewart G. Wolf Prize for Excellence in Linguistics, The University of New Orleans, 2012

Chancellor's Scholarship Recipient, The University of New Orleans 2006-2010

3. *Budget*



John Mark Maust <johnmarkm@gmail.com> Feb 14, 2025, 10:35 PM
to Carlos

Un saludo Dr. Teixeira,
Según mi cálculos los primeros siete capítulos consisten de poco menos que 51.000, entonces espero que serían 24 páginas. Al precio que indique en la solicitud, el presupuesto total serían 360 euros.

Atentamente,

John Mark Maust

•••

Carlos Teixeira <carlos.teixeira@urv.cat> Feb 16, 2025, 6:53 AM
to me

Buenos días, John Mark:

Queda aprobado el presupuesto de 360 euros por los 7 primeros capítulos de *A la costa*, de Luis Alfredo Martínez, con fecha de entrega prevista para el día 3 de marzo.

Saludos cordiales,
Carlos

4. Invoice

INVOICE

#25010901

BILLED TO: Editorial Lupa
Valencia, España

PAY TO: John Mark Maust
525 Westmoreland Pl
Jackson, TN 38301

INVOICE DATE: 30 April 2025

DESCRIPTION	RATE	UNITS	AMOUNT
English translation of first seven chapters of A La Costa	€15/page	28.21	€423.71

Sub-Total €423.71

TOTAL **€423.71**

Payment is required within 30 business days of invoice date. Please send concerns to johnmarkm@gmail.com.

Thank you for your business.

5. Self Evaluation Report

When I first began considering this Master's program, I was working full-time as a Spanish instructor, and had worked in education for about a decade. I knew I wanted to pivot to interpretation and translation. Since high school, I had wanted to be an interpreter, and I had done volunteer interpreting as a teenager. After finishing my first Master's in Romance Languages, I got work as a Spanish instructor, but also always did some part-time work as a freelance medical interpreter.

My career as a Spanish instructor consisted almost entirely of teaching the required foreign language courses which students resented and had no interest in. I knew that if I were to stay in education, that I wanted to specialize further and teach in a program where students had a personal interest in the subject I was imparting. I also was considering the possibility of leaving teaching and becoming a full-time freelance interpreter. I had already begun the process of becoming a credentialed court interpreter in Tennessee.

A few months before the first term of my Master's in Translation began, that decision was made for me. Due to budget cuts, the college where I was employed decided to eliminate their language instructor positions.

And so it was that I started this degree at the same time that interpreting and translating became my primary occupation. I opted to complete the program over two years to give myself more flexibility and to be able to work while studying.

The Translation Profession taught by Judith Cortes Villarroya was a wonderful class for me to take at that point in my professional life. It gave a broad overview of the profession, and helped me put myself in this context.

Professor Cortes Villarroya also taught Translation Business Management, another helpful class to help me get started on the right foot as a professional. While a number of the topics and examples were specific to Spain and less applicable to my context, the general principles definitely would transfer to any county. I certainly drew on this content as I did the commercial aspect of the dissertation.

Translation Strategies and Problem-Solving (English-Spanish) by Maria Rosich Andrei and (Spanish-English) by Kevin Costello were two sides of the same coin. Perhaps these were the classes I found most fun during the first term, as we played with language and how to best find an equivalent translation depending on the context. I must say that

Professor Costello made me realize that it was just as important to work on my English as my Spanish.

Tools for Specialised Translation by Sarah Horcas Rufian was a wonderful introduction to CAT tools. While I did not use them for the dissertation, I have used MATECAT for other projects I am working on.

Professor Horcas Rufian also taught Tools for Subtitling. While I have not yet had the opportunity to apply this knowledge, I think that having to work with time constraints and character limits was a good exercise and expanded my abilities.

Revising, Editing and Post-Editing Translated Texts were parallel classes, with English-Spanish by Judith Cortes Villaroya and Spanish-English by Kevin Costello. These classes definitely stretched me and I learned to be much more thorough in revising my translation work

I wrapped up my first year by completing an internship with DomSpain under the coordination of Judith Raigal Aran. The translating tasks I did in that environment were very interesting, and I became much quicker at producing a translation under a deadline.

The second year consisted of the elective classes and the dissertation, bringing everything to a close.

Economic Translation was taught by Dr. Nune Ayvazyan, and introduced me to a whole world I was unfamiliar with. I think I learned as much about economics in that course as I did about translation.

Judith Raigal Aran taught the Judicial half of that elective, which was much more within my comfort zone; nevertheless, I still gained valuable feedback and learned the value of finding good parallel texts in the target language.

The last class I took was Literary Translation by Maria Rosich Andreu, and this was perhaps the class I most enjoyed. I was disappointed that, despite being worth 6 credits, we only met 3 times. I think I fell in love with the challenge of not just maintaining the message, but also the artistic and creative value of the source text.

The capstone for this Master's program is, of course, the dissertation. I think in large part due to Professor Rosich Andreu, I pursued a literary focus for my dissertation. Dr. Teixeira has been a very supportive tutor, and generously allowed me to select my own source text. I am excited to treat this dissertation as the first step in translating much more Ecuadorian literature.

As I sit now, having nearly completed this Master's in Translation, I am thankful to all my professors for the feedback and encouragement they have given me. I truly think

that this *formación profesional* will be an excellent foundation for much of my future professional life.