

BELLADONNA* 17

PAMPA

by

Lila Zemborain

translated by Rosa Alcalá

*deadly nightshade, a cardiac and respiratory stimulant, having purplish-red flowers and black berries

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Pampa
(1990)

I

Monumentalidad
que se levanta
sobre un terrón
de tierra pampeana

II

Pedazo de selva
transplantado
a la fertilidad de la Pampa

Pampa
(1990)
translated by Rosa Alcalá

I

Monumentality
rising
above a mound
of Pampean earth

II

Portion of forest
transplanted
in the fertility of the Pampa

III

Pampa

Nombre que se ajusta
al dominio insuperable
de la vista

Es abrigo y
es cárcel
Es cielo y
es dolencia

Atrapada
en la tela
de la estrella
no salgo
de la Pampa
sino para
vivir en ella

IV

Pampa Pampa

Nombre gastado
De inmensidad
Nombre gastado
de consuelo
Nombre gastado
de atardecer
grandioso

Pampa Pampa

Nombre gastado
ajeno al rumor del monte
que llega a la Pampa
como el respiro del mar

III

Pampa

Name that adjusts
to the insurmountable
dominion of the visible

It is shelter
and prison
It is heaven
and grief

Trapped
in the fabric
of stars
I leave
the Pampa,
only to live
in it

IV

Pampa Pampa

Name worn
of immensity
Name worn
of solace
Name worn
of splendid
dusk

Pampa Pampa

Worn name
alien to the wood's murmur
reaching the Pampa
like the sea's breath

Pampa Pampa

Nombre gastado
estúpido juego
de palabras erróneas
sedientas de
Pampa Pampa

Pampa
no vuelvas a mí

Pampa
no vuelvas a mí
por el gastado suspiro
de la palabra poética
que me hace creer
en tu oscura invocación

V

¿Qué hago yo
fuera de la Pampa?

¿Qué hago yo
fuera de la Pampa?

Pampa Pampa

Pampa de mi madre
y de mi padre

Pampa de mis hijos
quiero volver

Quiero que mis hijos
corran por tu pampa
quiero que mis hijos
vean ese cielo
quiero que mis hijos
abran los ojos en tu pampa

Pampa Pampa

Worn name
stupid play
of wrong words
hungry for
Pampa Pampa

Pampa
do not come back to me

Pampa
do not come back to me
through the wasted sigh
of the poetic word
making me believe
in your dark invocation

V

What am I doing
out of the Pampa?

What am I doing
out of the Pampa?

Pampa Pampa

My mother's Pampa
and my father's

My children's Pampa
I want to return

I want my children
to run through your pampas
I want my children
to see that sky
I want my children
to open their eyes
in your pampas

Pampa Pampa
cubríme con
tu cielo

VI

Pampa Pampa
que me dejen
tranquila esas voces
y pueda hablar
sobre vos
como yo quiero
con la soltura de la voz
que se escapa
por un rato
y se detiene
para pensar en
la palabra
que enuncia
o que destruye
el impacto
del evento

Pampa Pampa

Es un cielo
una tarde de verano
y una noche
de luna

VII

La Pampa es Pampa

La Pampa
no me deja salir

La Pampa
me encierra en su corral

Pampa Pampa
cover me
in your sky

VI

Pampa Pampa
that those voices
leave me alone
so I can speak
of you
as I want
with an ease
that lets the voice
escape and pause
to think
in the word
that enunciates
or destroys
the impact
of the event

Pampa Pampa

It is a sky
a summer afternoon
and a moonlit
night

VII

The Pampa is Pampa

The Pampa
does not allow me to leave

The Pampa
confines me in its corral

La Pampa
encadena las tranqueras
y las cierra con cerrojos

La Pampa
se encierra y se escapa

Pero uno queda dentro

La Pampa es Pampa

VIII

Pampa Pampa

Quiero que mis hijos
suden tus olores a
barro
tierra
bosta
cuero crudo
y menta

Pampa Pampa

Mis hijos
no nacen
sino en la
Pampa

Mis hijos
nacen en la
Pampa

Pampa Pampa
quiero volver
a tus olores fecundos

The Pampa
chains the cattle-gates
and bolts the locks

The Pampa
encloses itself and escapes

But one remains inside

The Pampa is Pampa

VIII

Pampa Pampa

I want my children
to sweat your essence of
mud
earth
dung
raw hide
and mint

Pampa Pampa

My children
are not born
but in the
Pampa

My children
are born in the
Pampa

Pampa Pampa
I want to return
to your fecund smells

IX

Pampa Pampa

Materia orgánica
que se multiplica
enloquecidamente
en la cuadrícula
de un mapa

¿Qué azar?
¿Qué deseo lo maneja?
¿Qué dolor o qué placer?

X

Pampa Pampa

La expansión de tus olores
tamiza
mi carne

Mi carne
suda
tu olor contenido

Pampa Pampa

¿Qué es
ese olor seco
de la Pampa?

Gotas de pampa
suda tu piel

Gotas de pampa
suda tu piel

Pampa Pampa

Tu brillo salvaje
me fecunda

IX

Pampa Pampa

Organic material
that multiplies
crazily
on the grid
of a map

What fate?
What desire drives it?
What pain or what pleasure?

X

Pampa Pampa

The expansion of your smells
sifts
through my flesh

My flesh
sweats
your component smell

Pampa Pampa

What is
that dry smell
of The Pampa?

Your skin sweats
beads of pampa

Your skin sweats
beads of pampa

Pampa Pampa

Your wild shine
inseminates me

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