

Translation Practice

Excerpt from *Últimos días en Berlín*, by Paloma Sánchez-Garnica

Era tanto el fervor de los que contemplaban el desfile, que no parecían sentir el frío punzante; Yuri, en cambio, **se veía obligado a** moverse sin descanso para no congelarse. Sumergido en aquella multitud, se sintió apabullado ante la magnífica celebración de lo que se consideraba un triunfo de Alemania. Le fue difícil no dejarse arrastrar por aquella euforia colectiva, por la sensación de que algo importante estaba ocurriendo.

Después de más de una hora de caminar de un lado a otro, decidió regresar a casa. Se alejó de las **arengas** y el ruido y **avanzó despacio por calles cada vez más solitarias**. Cuando ya **enfilaba** la suya, oyó a su espalda una mezcla de voces, insultos y gritos de auxilio. Se detuvo y se dio la vuelta para saber qué pasaba y quién clamaba ayuda. A unos cincuenta metros, media docena de hombres **uniformados de pardo** golpeaba y pateaba sin piedad a alguien ya derribado en el suelo, **que intentaba protegerse encogido sobre sí mismo**. Al llegar a Berlín le habían aconsejado que, por su propia seguridad, **se mantuviera al margen**. Permaneció inmóvil durante unos segundos, indeciso, espantado de ser testigo del salvaje apaleamiento de un indefenso. Estaba a pocos metros de su **portal** e **hizo amago de** continuar su camino y seguir el consejo de alejarse, de no meterse en líos, pero aquellos gritos llegaban implacables hasta su conciencia. Apretó los puños en el interior de sus guantes, tensó la mandíbula y dio un paso, y luego otro y otro más, y **sin darse cuenta** estaba corriendo hacia el grupo.

—¡Eh, eh, parad de una vez! —gritó en un alemán perfecto cuando ya estaba muy cerca—. ¿Qué hacéis? ¡Dejadlo en paz!

Se quedó a un par de metros como si con su mera presencia pudiese llegar a amedrentar a aquellos **energúmenos**. Solo uno de los agresores **interrumpió su afán**; el resto **no hizo siquiera amago de** parar su **ensañamiento** sobre el cuerpo **encogido** y en tensión de su víctima.

(332 words)

Suggested translation:

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The fervour of those contemplating the parade was such that they didn't seem to feel the piercing cold; Yuri, however, **felt obliged to** keep moving restlessly to avoid freezing. Swamped in that crowd, he felt overwhelmed by the magnificent celebration of what was considered an achievement for Germany. It was hard not to get dragged into that collective euphoria, into the feeling that something important was happening.

After over an hour wandering from one place to the other, he decided to return home. He got away from the **rallying** and the noise, and **made his way slowly towards streets that were increasingly lonely/increasingly lonely streets. When he got to his street**, he heard behind his back a mix of voices, insults and cries for help. He stopped and turned around to check what was happening and who was asking for help. About fifty metres away, half a dozen men **dressed in khaki** were mercilessly hitting and kicking someone already defeated on the floor, **who was trying to protect by curling up into himself**. When he got to Berlin he had been advised **to stay out of trouble** for his own sake. He stayed still for a few seconds, undecided, terrified of witnessing the wild beating of someone defenceless. He was a few metres away from his **door** and he **fainted** to continue his way and follow the advice of walking away, of staying out of trouble, but those screams were implacably reaching his conscience. He tightened his fists inside his gloves, tightened his jaw, and took a step, and then another one, and another one, **and before noticing**, he was running towards the group.

—Hey, hey, stop at once! —he shouted in a perfect German when he was close— What are you doing? Leave him alone!

He stayed a couple of metres away as if his mere presence could intimidate those **lunatics**. Only one of the aggressors **halted**; the rest **didn't even bother to stop their viciousness** against the **curled-up** and tense body of their victim.