

Translation (A poem)

Post by "Don" of July 29, 2021 at 9:22 AM

At the risk of unveiling a rough draft, here's the first run at a poem I've been working on to get at the usefulness but inadequacies of translation.

Frank criticism welcomed! (Talking to you [Joshua](#) 😊)

A translation makes us

Believe we can

Comprehend a language

Distant in time,

Evocative, nuanced,

Foreign, strange, new.

Giving us words to read

Holds before us

Imperfect reflections.

Just consider,

Kings and peasants would speak

Living Latin.

Melodic Greeks sang, but,

Now, we must trust

One translator's choices.

Pursue connotations!

Question their decisions!

Read carefully!

Sense something deeper and.

Treasures await!

Uncover mosaics,
Varied colors
Waiting discovery like
Xenos: stranger.
Yet also visitor.
Zeroing in
Yields riches unforeseen.
Xenos: serve guests
With hospitality.
Vow to dig in!
Upset preconceptions,
Tempted to start
Seeing complexities.
Read beneath lines,
Questioning the choices
Presented there.
One word fixed on the page
Now expanding its sense
Makes you appreciate
Language becoming yours.
Keep comparing translations,
Juxtapose and compare.
Increasing understanding.
Hold decisions in check.
Good enough is not sufficient.
Flowing words fill us

Evoking

Delight,

Comprehend

Beyond

A translation.