## POETRY

## EFRAÍN JARA IDROVO

## Weeping for Pedro Jara<sup>1</sup> (Structures for an Elegy)

		Ī
1.1	1	the radiogram said
	2	"Your son was born. What should we call him?"
	3	I was then in the islands
	4	scattered procession of basalt
	5	clots of astonishmen
	6	dry ganglions of eternity
	7	chain of rocks in the ocean's palm
	8	faces sculpted by the ageless flames
	9	loneliness
	10	gleaming stubborn duration
	11	bitter seminal odor of the tidelands
	12	wandering
	13	wondering
	14	I said
	15	while blood and seagulls shouted
	16	he will be called pedro
	17	pedrobonesofstone
	18	pedrolaughterofrock
	19	rock inflamed by the fire of life's meteors
1.2	1	the radiogram said
	2	"Your son was born. Send his name"
	3	I was then in the archipelago
	4	blackened bones of basalt
	5	syllables of silence
	6	ashlars of eternity
	7	garland of stone on the ocean's breast
	8	colloquium of ageless cyclops
	9	loneliness

	10	glimmering orphaned space
	11	ripping of the wind's tunics
	12	wandering
	13	wondering
	14	I said
	15	while sex and seals howled
	16	you will be named pedro
	17	pedroveinsofstone
	18	pedroflameofrock
	19	rock fired by the breath of life's lions
1.3	1	the radiogram said
	2	"Your son was born. What do we name him?"
	3	I was then in the galapagos
	4	jaundiced gums of basalt
	5	alveoli of abandonment
	6	teeth of eternity
	7	stone tiara on the ocean's head
	8	cloaks of ageless lava
	9	loneliness
	10	glowing hollow time
	11	continuous boiling of stars at the foot of the cliff
	12	wandering
	13	wondering
	14	I said
	15	amidst the roar of dreams and waves
	16	I will name you pedro
	17	pedrospineofthesteep
	18	pedroagelessrock
	19	tough and incandescent rock that will outlive me
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		II
2.1	1	Beloved son!
	2	relentlessly bitten by caustic days
	3	you seemed sculpted in diamond
	4	madetolastamidstthestones
	5	madetoendure
	6	among the proliferations of time's rust
	7	but everything that burns in blood or intelligence
	8	sounds like leaves falling and annihilation
	9	oh stone chisels for cleaving rocks
	10	oh muted impact of the blow of the masses
	11	oh factions burned by expiration's tongue
	12	faces of stone

	13	traces of stone
	14	stone visage of rapa-nui
	15	cheek bones weathered by the world's solitude
	16	frieze of abandonment
	17	unruffled hollows where time crouches
	18	like a tiny terrified animal
	19	temples of stone
	20	jaws of stone
	21	pedrobasalt or pedroeasterisland
	22	stones polluted by the passion of man
	23	stones eroded by the salts of extermination
	24	stones that have slowly lost their substance
	25	in the weeping dust of farewells
2.2	1	Beloved son!
	2	savagely whipped by desperate waves
	3	you seemed engraved in granite
	4	madetostrengthenamidstthestones
	5	madetolast
	6	in the frantic agitation of water
	7	but everything that flares in the heart or upon touching
	8	gets infected and perishes
	9	oh obsidian tips of my ancestors' weapons
	10	oh falcon's cry of thrown hatchets
	11	oh sandstones of the imperial roads
	12	knees of stone
	13	vertebrae of stone
	14	stone stairway of machu-picchu
	15	crest where a spark sharpens its cutlass
	16	wild balcony of condors
	17	raindrop of silence where time makes its nest
	18	like a flower amongst the crushed ribs of thunder
	19	femurs of stone
	20	eyelids of stone
	21	pedrosandstone or pedromachu-picchu
	22	stones abandoned by the hand of man
	23	stones overheated by firebrands of agony
	24	stones whose surface has slowly vanished
	25	in the dust of departures
2.3	1	Beloved son!
	2	heartlessly torn by the shadows' nails
	3	you seemed carved in flint

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	4	madetogrowamidstinestones
	5	madetolast
	6	in the silent violence of ashes
	7	but everything that is touched by hand or love
	8	starts to hesitate and crumble
	9	oh pebbles turned whistles of darts from a sling
	10	oh niche where the north wind expelled the warrior
	11	oh volumes torn from geology's dreams
	12	walls of stone
	13	shoulders of stone
	14	stone lintels of inga-pirca <sup>2</sup>
	15	shattered bow on the reefs of extinction
	16	sheets of drenching rain
	17	great apse where strikes the wind
	18	like a pivot of rage
	19	trunk of stone
	20	eyebrows of stone
	21	pedroporphyry or pedroinga-pirca
	22	stones infected by the anxiety of man
	23	stones decayed by the lichens of extermination
	24	stones that have slowly consumed their presence
	25	devoured by the suppuration of death.
		Ш
3.1	1	desperate flutter of an instant
5.1	2	we
	3	the senseless
	4	feeders of excess and graves
	5	we who lie awake
	6	pondering our existance
	7	we long for the immensity of the ocean
	8	but we only own the indecision of a tear
	9	I loved you pedroocean
	10	I had you pedrodrop
	11	I yearned for you pedrosea
	12	I lost you pedrofoam
	13	you should have surpassed me as the tide does the beach
	14	but your death grew faster than my love
	15	delicate spine of a sea urchin
	16	errant umbrella of a jellyfish
	17	velvet agony of an escaping fish
	18	screech of a seagull amidst the reef's roar
	19	everything's falling
	20	sinking
	20	SHIKHIE

	21	disseminating
	22	you seemed forged with the toughness of the reef
	23	time's forgotten cliff
	24	unswervable javelin of the albatross
	25	but you were the flap of a swallow's wings in a gale!
	26	I imagined your bones developing
	27	with the tough gracefulness of columns
	28	with the aggressive stubbornness of coral reefs
	29	but you were barely the last glittering gasp
	30	of a sea bass thrown upon the sand!
	31	oh pedroseaweedtrail
	32	oh pedrowavesplash
	33	on the sparkling cliff of life
3.2	1	fulminant incandescence of the ephemeral
	2	we
	3	the fools
	4	fed with absurdity and frustrations
	5	we who persist
	6	in justifying the joy of being here
	7	we covet the vastness of the forest
	8	but we only own the hesitation of a leaf
	9	I loved you pedroforest
	10	I kept you pedropetiole
	11	I yearned for you pedrofrond
	12	I lost you pedrofallenleaf
	13	you should have outlived me as the seed does the sunflower
	14	but your blood ran faster than my vigil
	15	brittle pine needle
	16	tottering resin pupil
	17	frenzy of butterflies at the sight of pollen
	18	warble of a nightingale amidst the waterfall clamor
	19	everything's falling
	20	sinking
	21	disappearing
	22	you seemed built with the vigor of the olive
	23	time's forgotten oak
	24	limitless fringe of the hawk's flight
	25	but you were a hummingbird in the funnel of a tornado!
	26	I conceived the shaping of your forehead
	27	with the sweet persistence of bark
	28	with the sour lust of roots
	29	but you were barely the rustle of an angel's wing

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	30 31	of a wheat spike trampled by hooves! oh pedroheron'sfootprint
	32	oh pedrocaressofwind
	33	on the gleaming promontory of life
3.3	1	incessant whirl of today
	2	we
	3	the stubborn
	•4	warpers of discord and syllogism
	5	we who despair
	6	to decipher the signs of uncertainty
	7	we strive for the imperturbability of the mountain
	8	but we only own the prostration of the dust
	9	I loved you pedromegalith
	10	I had you pedropebble
	11	I yearned for you pedrorock
	12	I lost yøu pedrosand
	13	you should have passed beyond me as the moon does the hill
	14	but your anguish expanded faster than my pain
	15	fragmented sheet of lapis lazuli
	16	dazzling wound of diamonds
	17	gleaming ecstasy of a gold-bearing vein
	18	cooing of a dove amidst the roar of an avalanche
	19	everything's sinking
	20	fading
	21	blurring
	22	you seemed implanted with the serenity of a snow-
		capped mountain
	23	time's forgotten lode
	24	majestic signature of the falcon's flight
	25	but you were the struggle of a butterfly in a storm!
	26	I visualized your shoulders standing out
	27	with the powerful simplicity of summits
	28	with the perseverance of ramparts
	29	but you were barely a sudden sparkle
	30	of a pebble crushed by a rushing stream!
	31	oh pedroextinguishedcrater
	32	oh pedrocrumblingsand
	33	in the bottomless gorge of life
		• •

ΙV

4.1 truly 1 2

was it true?

	3	was it you who dangled from the toilet chain
	4	like a dry willow wisp over a river
	5	vanished being
	6	wounded being
	7	receding tide
	8	suicide
	9	oh dove's furrow of thought
	10	erased by the deafening sound of scorn
	11	oh arrogance of the star that sends its orbit to hell
	12	oh obstinate repudiator of convention
	13	pedrobackwardcap
	14	pedrobirdshooter
	15	pedrowindowbreaker
	16	and your eternally splinted arm
	1 <i>7</i>	pedro fermentation of life's entrails
	18	but you are no longer here!
	19	when I closed your eyelids
	20	to veil the frozen thunder in your eyes
	21	I no longer recognized you
	22	was it really you?
	23	that frozen indolence of an ice floe?
	24	that ember that desperation urges one to blow?
	25	that which crumbles in the darkness forever?
4.2	1	truly
	2	was it true?
	3	was it you who hung from the toilet chain
	4	like a useless pulley in an abandoned unfinished building
	5	vanished being
	6	ceased being
	7	no sun outside
	8	suicide
	9	oh mirrored precinct of thought
	10	steamed up by the vapor of the poppies of passion
	11	oh sinister fascination with the whirlwind of emptiness
	12	oh perpetual attacker of obedience
	13	pedroinsideoutunderwear
	14	pedroshavenhead
	15	pedrozeroingrammar
	16	and shirttails untucked
	17	pedro bewilderment of life's ivy
	18	but you are no longer here!

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	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	when I put your hands on your chest to return you to the delirious innocence of matter I no longer recognized you was it really you? that vain contracted hand of the shipwrecked? that ash that the wind will soon disperse? that which devoured the last bit of fire with a single flash?
4.3	1	truly
1.0	2	was it true?
	3	was it you who was suspended from the toilet chain
	4	like a paralyzed pendulum for eternity
	5	vanished being
	6	ceased being
	7	brushed aside
	8	suicide
	9	oh crystal palace of intelligence
	10	invaded by furious surges of instinct
	11	oh butterfly's obsession with the other side of the mirror
	12	oh perpetual opposer of the established
	13	pedroinsideoutsocks
	14	pedroleadedeyes
	15	pedroeccentricjackets
	16	and lost notebooks
	17	pedro exasperation of life's jaguars
	18	but you are no longer here!
	19	when I looked at you for the last time
	20	before I returned you to moisture and disintegration
	21	I no longer recognized you
	22	was it really you?
	23	that melancholy of fallen banners?
	24	that stillness that precedes the underground rage?
	25	that mourning and germ now food for clover?
		V
5.1	1	pedro no longer
	2	only rock
	3	lump returned to the oppressive layers of land
	4	to the freezing silence of quarry
	5	never again adventure
	6	only venture
	7	to the insane rage of depredation

	8	to what leaves only remains
	9	never traces
	10	never the sounds of vines or roots in the chest
	11	trail of brands of time
	12	but you shine within me
	13	like a sword in the bottom of a stream
	14	but you sigh within me
	15	you still love within me
	16	you knock on my heart
	17	like an animal panting for one more chance
	18	beloved son!
	19	we are the seething foam on a fathomless sea
5.2	1	pedro no longer
	2	only stalactite
	3	mineral returned to the greed of dust
	4	to the vulva of the hurricane of metamorphosis
	5	never again fortune
	6	only misfortune
	7	to the vindictive efficiency of separation
	8	to what demands only space
	9	never time
	10	never the flapping of petrels and swallows in the mind
	11	trickle of hot coals of perseverance
	12	but you glow within me
	13	like a wave that finally breaks on the beach of the heart
	14	but you blink within me
	15	you still breathe within me
	16	you thrive in my blood
	17	like a seed eager for a new germination
	18	beloved son!
	19	we are the whisper of an everlasting foliage
5.3	1	pedro no longer
<i>J</i> . <i>J</i>	2	only quartz
	3	block returned to the astonished doves in the rocks
	4	to the violent perversity of acid
	5	never again adventure
	6	only a shroud
	7	to the metallic obstinance of the inert
	8	to the metalic obstitutive of the meri
	9	never shapes
	,	ilever shapes

10	never the arteries of diamonds and flowers in the
	forehead
11	imprints of the embers of duration
12	but you sparkle within me
13	like a shooting star entering the atmosphere
14	but you dream within me
15	you still live within me
16	you burn in my memory
17	like old tribal songs on the lips of youth
18	beloved son!
19	we are the echo of an eternal tune

## NOTES

- 1. Normally it is the policy of *ISLE* to print translations together with original texts. Because of the unusual length of "Sollozo por Pedro Jara," however, we have been able to publish only Cecilia Mafla-Bustamante's English translation. The original Spanish version of the poem can be found in Jara Idrovo's book entitled *Efrain Jara Idrovo: Grandes Poetas de los 50* (Quito: Editorial El Conejo, 1986).
  - 2. Inca ruins in Ecuador.