



**BOB  
DYLAN  
TARANTULA**

**PREMIO NOBEL DE LITERATURA 2016**

«Premiar a Dylan  
es como ponerle una medalla al Everest  
por ser la montaña más alta.»

Leonard Cohen

**EDICIÓN BILINGÜE**

# TARÁNTULA

BOB DYLAN

TRADUCCIÓN DE ALBERTO MANZANO  
PRÓLOGO DE BENJAMÍN PRADO

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# PRÓLOGO

## LA TELARAÑA DE LA TARÁNTULA

*¿Qué es este libro? ¿Por qué se titula así? ¿De qué trata? «Podría ser cualquier cosa, dado que lo que contiene no forma parte de ningún género a base de probarlos todos», es una buena respuesta al primer interrogante y basta para explicar su combinación de prosa poética, versos sueltos que tienen mucho que ver con la escritura automática de Paul Eluard, André Breton o Artaud y relatos que, en realidad, lo son y no lo son, que merodean pero no entran, caminan hasta el filo del trampolín pero no saltan. Estamos ante una explosión verbal. Tarántula es puro arte abstracto, un tipo de creación que obliga a quien se ponga ante ella a añadirle un sentido, porque no se lo van a dar hecho.*

*La segunda pregunta tampoco resulta fácil de contestar, aunque es posible que no se equivoquen quienes opinan que la elección de Dylan tiene algo que ver con Nietzsche y su Así habló Zaratustra, que en los años sesenta estaba muy de moda y uno de cuyos capítulos se llama, precisamente, «Sobre las tarántulas» y dice cosas de este tipo: «¡Mira, esa es la caverna de las tarántulas y aquí está su telaraña; acércate y tócala para que tiemble. La venganza se asienta en su alma: allí donde muerde, se forma una costra negra. Su veneno produce vértigos en la conciencia!». Eso podría haberlo escrito Dylan; a cambio, a Nietzsche no le importaría ser el autor de la frase: «No hay ningún sustituto para la muerte», que muchos años después volvería a inventar Elias Canetti en uno de sus aforismos.*

*En cuanto a la tercera cuestión, argumento no tiene; sus personajes vienen y van y su tema es lo que surja, ninguno y cualquiera, tal y como corresponde a la escritura irracionalista que practicaba Bob Dylan en aquellos tiempos en los que, por recomendación de su amigo Allen Ginsberg — que murió convencido de que la canción «Just Like a Woman», compuesta por esos días, estaba dedicada a él, y eso lo sé de primera mano, porque se lo pregunté en 1993 en Madrid, mientras me dedicaba La caída de América en el cóctel que le ofrecieron después de su inolvidable recital de ese año en el Círculo de Bellas Artes—, consumía Los cantos de Maldoror, de Isidore Ducase, conde de Lautréamont, donde se habla de lo que es «bello como el encuentro fortuito de una máquina de coser y un paraguas sobre una mesa de disección»; Una temporada en el infierno, de Arthur Rimbaud, que debió de impresionarle tanto como para que le pusiera su nombre a su nueva guitarra eléctrica; un Jack Kerouac más etéreo pero a la vez más hipnótico, que ya no era el de En el camino o Los vagabundos del Dharma sino el de Los subterráneos, Big Sur y México City Blues; y por supuesto, en primer lugar, los poemas del propio Ginsberg, que por entonces ya había publicado sus obras maestras Aullido y Kaddish, cuya sombra es evidente en mil detalles de este Tarántula.*

*«He visto una señal dentro de todo», escribe aquí Dylan, y tal vez eso explique mejor que ninguna otra cosa el carácter de esta obra, que es una radiografía de su mente hecha en un momento de ebullición, cuando su inteligencia, su astucia y su capacidad asociativa estaban al rojo gracias al efecto multiplicador de las drogas y a la energía provocada por el caos que lo rodeaba y que es fácil de apreciar en las muchas tomas de la película Don't Look Back en las que aparece escribiendo este libro, intentando aislarse mientras teclea su máquina de escribir en cuartos de hotel llenos de personas que hablan, cantan, se pelean, dan órdenes a gritos, se pasan bebidas y cigarrillos, cuelgan y descuelgan teléfonos, abren y cierran la puerta a amigos y a desconoci-*

dos... Es la época de las gafas negras por la noche, los discos eléctricos y las letras a la vez inolvidables e indescifrables. La época de *Bringing It All Back Home*, *Highway 61 Revisited* y *Blonde on Blonde*, en la que Dylan llegó tan arriba que ni siquiera él mismo ha vuelto a hacerlo. Y Tarántula se formó como una perla negra en el centro de ese torbellino, algo que se le nota en lo mucho que tiene que ver con lo que escribió para las contraportadas de esos mismos álbumes.

Se rumorea que Dylan escribió Tarántula sin querer, que fue un negocio que cerró a sus espaldas su representante, para sacar un poco de dinero extra. Su editorial, sin embargo, recuerda que él mismo se presentó una mañana en sus oficinas y parecía muy interesado en el proyecto, que dio algunas ideas para el diseño de la portada y pidió que le entregasen unas galeras en las que poder corregir algunas cosas y añadir otras. La reunión fue tan alentadora que había empezado con la desconfianza de no creer que aquel galimatías fuera a venderse mucho y acabó con la decisión de apoyarlo a muerte y fabricar diferentes objetos publicitarios con la fotografía de Bob y la palabra tarántula impresos. Pero su famoso accidente de moto y su retirada de la circulación, pararon todos esos proyectos. Mientras se recuperaba, el sello MacMillan, que era con el que había firmado el contrato, no se atrevió a imprimirlo sin las modificaciones anunciadas, y por esa tierra de nadie que es la indecisión corrieron como la pólvora las versiones piratas del libro, incluso se dieron a conocer algunos fragmentos en la prensa. La leyenda empezó a crecer, aunque fuera en la sombra.

A los treinta y seis años de su aparición, el más impenetrable de los trabajos de Bob Dylan sigue conservando su jeroglífico sin descifrar, pero a cambio regresa a los escaparates en un momento perfecto, justo cuando el genio acaba de ser recompensado con el Premio Nobel de Literatura, porque es evidente que Tarántula está mucho más cerca de eso, de la literatura, que de la canción. Su dificultad es in-

*negable, pero es la misma que tienen las grandes obras de la poesía hermética, de Louis Aragon a René Char, y de Paul Celan a Octavio Paz. Se podrían recortar un par de sus versos, si es que eso es lo que son, y usarlos como mapa de ruta para moverse por sus enigmáticas hojas: «Si vas a enviarme algo, / envíame una llave. Encontraré la puerta / que le corresponde / aunque me lleve el resto de mi vida». Mejor no puede explicarse. De otro modo, tampoco.*

BENJAMÍN PRADO

## GUNS, THE FALCON'S M OUTH- BOOK & GASHCAT UNPUNISHED

Aretha/ crystal jukebox queen of hymn & him diffused in drunk transfusion wound would heed sweet soundwave crippled & cry salute to oh great particular el dorado reel & ye battered personal god but she cannot she the leader of whom when ye follow, she cannot she has no back she cannot... beneath black flowery railroad fans & fig leaf shades & dogs of all nite joes, grow like arches & cures the harmonica battalions of bitter cowards, bones & bygones while what steadier louder the moans & arms of funeral landlord with one passionate kiss rehearse from dusk & climbing into the bushes with some favorite enemy ripping the postage stamps & crazy mailmen & waving all rank & familiar ambition than that itself, is needed to know that mother is not a lady... aretha with no goals, eternally single & one step soft of heaven/ let it be understood that she owns this melody along with her emotional diplomats & her earth & her musical secrets

the censor in a twelve wheel drive semi  
stopping in for donuts & pinching the  
waitress/ he likes his women raw & with  
syrup/ he has his mind set on becoming  
a famous soldier

manuscript nitemare of cut throat high & low & behold  
the prophesying blind allegiance to law fox, monthly cupid  
& the intoxicating ghosts of dogma... nay & may the boat-



men in bathrobes be banished forever & anointed into the shelves of alive hell, the unimaginative sleep, repetition without change & fat sheriffs who watch for doom in the mattress... hallaluyah & bossman of the hobos cometh & ordaining the spiritual gypsy davy camp now being infiltrated by foreign dictator, the pink FBI & the interrogating unknown failures of peacetime as holy & silver & blessed with the texture of kaleidoscope & the sandal girl... to dream of dancing pillhead virgins & wandering apollo at the pipe organ/ unscientific ramblers & the pretty things lucky & lifting their lips & handing down looks & regards from the shoulders of adam & eve's minstrel peekaboo... passing on the chance to bludgeon the tough spirits & the deed holders into fishlike buffoons & yanking ye erratic purpose... surrendering to persuasion, the crime against people, that be ranked alongside murder & while doctors, teachers, bankers & sewer cleaners fight for their rights, they must now be horribly generous... & into the march now where tab hunter leads with his thunderbird/ pearl bailey stomps him against a buick & where poverty, a perfection of neptune's unused clients, plays hide & seek & escaping into the who goes there? & now's not the time to act silly, so wear your big boots & jump on the garbage clowns, the hourly rate & the enema men & where junior senators & goblins rip off tops of question marks & their wives make pies & go now & throw some pies in the face & ride the blinds & into aretha's religious thighs & movement find ye your nymph of no conscience & bombing out your young sensitive dignity just to see once & for all if there are holes & music in the universe & watch her tame the sea horse/ aretha, pegged by choir boys & other pearls of mamas as too gloomy a much of witchy & dont you know no happy songs

the lawyer leading a pig on a leash  
 stopping in for tea & eating the censor's  
 donut by mistake/ he likes to lie about  
 his age & takes his paranoia seriously

the hospitable grave being advertised & given away in whims & journals the housewife sits on. finding herself financed, ruptured but never censored in & also never flushing herself/ she denies her corpse the courage to crawlclose his own door, the ability to die of bank robbery & now catches the heels of old stars making scary movies on her dirt & her face & not everybody can dig her now. she is private property... bazookas in the nest & weapons of ice & of weatherproof flinch & they twitter, make scars & kill babies among lady shame good looks & her constant foe, tom sawyer of the breakfast cereal causing all females paying no attention to this toilet massacre to be hereafter called LONZO & must walk the streets of life forever with lazy people having nothing to do but fight over women... everybody knows by now that wars are caused by money & greed & charity organizations/ the housewife is not here. she is running for congress

the senator dressed like an austrian  
sheep. stopping in for coffee & insulting  
the lawyer/ he is on a prune diet &  
secretly wishes he was bing crosby  
but would settle for being a close  
relative of edgar bergen

passing the sugar to iron man of the bottles who arrives with the grin & a heatlamp & he's pushing 'who dunnit' buttons this year & he is a love monger at first sight... you have seen him sprout up from a dumb hill bully into a bunch of backslap & he's wise & he speaks to everyone as if they just answered the door/ he dont like people that say he comes from the monkeys but nevertheless he is dull & he is destroyingly boring... while Allah the cook scrapes hunger from his floor & pounding it into the floating dishes with roaring & the rest of the meatheads praising each other's power & argue over acne & recite calendars & pointing to each other's garments & liquid & disperse into segments &

die crazy deaths & bellowing farce mortal farm vomit & why for Jesus Christ be Just another meathead? when all the tontos & heyboy lose their legs trying to frug while kemosabe & mr palladin spend their off hours remaining separate but equal & anyway why not wait for laughter to straighten the works out meantime & WO WEE smash & the rage of it all when former lover cowboy hanging upside down & Suzy Q. the angel putting new dime into this adoption machine as out squirts a symbol squawking & freezing & crashing into the bowels of some hideous soap box & it's a rumble & iron man picking up his 'who dunnit' buttons & giving them away free & trying to make friends & even tho youre belonging to no political party, youre now prepared, prepared to remember something about something

the chief of police holding a bazooka  
with his name engraved on it. coming in  
drunk & putting the barrel into the face  
of the lawyer's pig. once a wife beater,  
he became a professional boxer & received  
a club foot/ he would literally like to  
become an executioner. what he doesnt know  
is that the lawyer's pig has made friends  
with the senator

gambler's passion & his slave, the sparrow & he's ranting from a box of black platform & mesmerizing this ball of daredevils to stay in the morning & dont bust from the factories/ everyone expecting to be born with whom they love & theyre not & theyve been let down, theyve been lied to & now the organizers must bring the oxen in & dragging leaflets & gangrene enthusiasm, ratfinks & suicide tanks from the pay phones to the housing developments & it usually starts to rain for a while... little boys cannot go out & play & new men in bulldozers come in every hour delivering groceries & care packages being sent from las vegas... & nephews of the coffee bean expert & other favorite sons gra-

duating with a pompadour & cum laudepraise be & a wailing farewell to releasing the hermit & beautifully ugly & fingering eternity come down & save your lambs & butchers & strike the roses with its rightful patsy odor... & grampa scarecrow's got the tiny little wren & see for yourself while saving him too/ look down oh great Romantic. you who can predict from every position, you who know that everybody's not a Job or a Nero nor a J. C. Penney... look down & seize your gambler's passion, make high wire experts into heroes, presidents into con men. turn the eventual... but the hermits being not talking & lower class or insane or in prison... & they dont work in the factories anyway

the good samaritan coming in with the words 'round & round we go' tattooed on his cheek/ he tells the senator to stop insulting the lawyer/ he would like to be an entertainer & brags that he is one of the best strangers around, the pig jumps on him & starts eating his face

illiterate coins of two head wrestling with window washer who's been reincarnated from a garden hoe & after once being pushed around happily & casually hitting a rock once in a while is now bitter hung up on finding some inferior. he bites into the window ledge & by singing 'what'll we do with the baby-o' to thirsty peasant girls wanting a drink from his pail, he is thinking he is some kind of success but he's getting his kicks telling one of the two headed coins that tom jefferson used to use him around the house when the bad stuff was growing... the lawrence welk people inside the window, theyre running the city planning division & they hibernate & feeding their summers by conversing with poor people's shadows & other ambulance drivers, & they dont even notice this window washer while the families who tell of the boogey men & theyre precious & there's pictures

of them playing golf & getting blacker & they wear oil in the window washer's union hall & these people consider themselves gourmets for not attending charlie starkweather's funeral ye gads the champagne being appropriate pagan & the buffalo, tho the restaurant owners are vague about it, is fast disappearing into violence/ soon there will be but one side of the coin & mohammed wherever he comes from, cursing & window washers falling & then no one will have any money... broad save the clean, the minorities & liberace's countryside.

the truck driver coming in with a carpet  
sweeper under his eyes/ everybody says  
'hi joe' & he says 'joe the fellow that  
owns this place. i'm just a scientist. i  
aint got no name' the truck driver hates  
anybody that carries a tennis racket/ he  
drinks all the senator's coffee & proceeds  
to put him in a headlock

first you snap your hair down & try to tie up the kicking voices on a table & then the sales department people with names like Gus & Peg & Judy the Wrench & Nadine with worms in her fruit & Bernice Bearface blowing her brains on Butch & theyre all enthused over locker rooms & vegetables & Muggs he goes to sleep on your neck talking shop & divorces & headline causes & if you cant say get off my neck, you just answer him & wink & wait for some morbid reply & the liberty bell ringing when you dont dare ask yourself how do you feel for God's sake & what's one more face? & the difference between a lifetime of goons & holes, company pigs & beggars & cancer critics learning yoga with raving petty gangsters in one act plays with V-eight engines all being tossed in the river & combined in a stolen mirror... compared to the big day when you discover lord byron shottting craps in the morgue with his pants off & he's eating a picture of jean paul belmondo & he offers you a piece of

green lightbulb & you realize that nobody's told you about This & that life is not so simple after all... in fact that it's no more than something to read & light cigarettes with... Lem the Clam tho, he really gives a damn if dale really does get nailed slamming down the scotch & then going outside with Maurice, who aint the Peoria Kid & dont look the same as they do in Des Moines, Iowa & good old debbie, she comes along & both her & dale, they start shacking up in the newspapers & jesus who can blame 'em? & Amen & oh lordy, & how the parades dont need your money baby... it's the confetti & one george washington & Nadine who comes running & says where's Gus? & she's salty about the bread he's been making off her worms while dollars becoming pieces of paper... but people kill for paper & anyway you cant buy a thrill with a dollar as long as pricetags, the end of the means & only as big as your fist & they dangle from a pot of golden rainbow... which attacks & which covers the saddles of noseless poets & wonder blazing & somewhere over the rainbow & blinding my married lover into the ovation maniacs/ cremating innocent child into scra-pheap for vicious controversy & screwball & who's to tell charlie to stop & not come back for garbage men arent serious & they gonna get murdered tomorrow & next march 7th by the same kids & their fathers & their uncles & all the rest of these people that would make leadbelly a pet... they will always kill garbage men & wiping the smells but this rainbow, she goes off behind a pillar & sometimes a tornado destroys the drugstores & floods bring polio & leaving Gus & Peg twisted in the volleyball net & Butch hiding in madison square garden... Bearface dead from a flying piece of grass! I. Q. —somewhere in the sixties & twentieth century & so sing aretha... sing mainstream into orbit! sing the cowbells home! sing misty... sing for the barber & when youre found guilty of not owning a cavalry & not helping the dancer with laryngitis... misleading valentino's pirates to the indians or perhaps not lending a hand to the deaf pacifist in his sailor jail... it then must be time for you to rest &

learn new songs... forgiving nothing for you have done nothing & make love to the noble scrubwoman

what a drag it gets to be. writing  
for this chosen few. writing for  
anyone cpt you. you, daisy mae, who are  
not even of the masses... funny thing,  
tho, is that youre not even dead yet...  
i will nail my words to this paper,  
an fly them on to you. an forget about  
them... thank you for the time.  
youre kind.  
love an kisses  
your double  
Silly Eyes (in airplane trouble)