Università di Firenze Dipartimento di Formazione, Lingue, Intercultura, Letterature e Psicologia Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from *Pappagalli verdi, cronache di un chirurgo di guerra*

*(Green Parrots,/: Chronicles/Journal/Reports? of a War Surgeon)* (1999) by Gino Strada

(…) was to use

Years later my father would use the same bike to come (to/and) see/watch me play

 (not playing)

(soccer NAmE) got/took/fell ill, I myself

football. Then, when he became ill/sick, I used his bicycle myself, for my/the first dates

 I was the one who/that used/It was I who…

 she (fml) who would become (the companion of my life). lifelong

with the one/girl who/that was to become my life/lifetime companion/my life partner.

 I used/rode it until my father died, then I never touched it again. I left it there

 . After that, I didn’t touch it again/anymore.

to die, it too, rust-eaten, in that rack

to die also, of rust, in that/the bicycle/bike rack in the courtyard.

 as well, rusting away,

 And I didn’t break down and cry that time, because I knew that

 burst into tears/out crying

 an endless mourning/stream of tears//a never-ending crying it to myself.

it would have been a crying without end and I couldn’t, I didn’t want to allow myself that.

I would never have stopped, permit myself to do that.

 let myself do that.

 about me, to see me too left

 What would my father say of me, seeing me so far from home? He also went away

 far away

early, too damned/damn early for me. But he never wanted it/to. He simply had no choice.

 did not have a/any choice.

 Refrain from it.

 I(,) on the other hand(,) could avoid/for(e)go it. I could be (at) home with Teresa,

 Instead I would be able to do/could do/could manage (to do) without it;

 riding bikes/her bike.

and with Cecilia, taking/to take my little girl for/on a bicycle ride. Why, instead, am I there,

in that cold room in the (middle of the) mountains of Baluchistan(1)?

(…) close to home.

 As when my father and I would go for bike rides meadows near our house.

 Like when we used to go on/ride (on) our bikes, my father and I, in the fields near home.

 thicket/grove of trees sufficient

Then a little woods or a stream full of frogs was enough to make me dream. Now I need

At that time brook all it took/all I needed to dream.

(something) more.

(…)

(1) Baluchistan: a mountainous region of Western Asia, which includes part of SE Iran, SW Afghanistan, and west Pakistan (where it is a province with capital of Quetta).