

### **About Puppies and other breeds.**



**The so-called developed and welfare state societies suffer more and more situations in which blood and death happen for no reason, or for completely cruel and absurd ones.**

Men who kill their wives when the wife decided to put up no more with their “*companionship*.” Radical followers of opposite soccer teams who beat each other, sometimes even killing each other, for “*faithfulness*” to a group of men who basically play with a ball. “*Difficult*” children who trash their teacher’s car because during the class the teacher told them not to talk. Young people who attack and destroy property and people for “*causes*” with no reason at all. Words like “*patriot, race or foreigner*” can make them to throw the bomb or stick the knife.

What is the germ of this violence? When does it erupt? These questions are the source of Puppies with A Dark Gaze. I chose these young members of a paramilitary group as representative of the most coward violence: they never attack alone, look always for fragile and solitary people, prepare their “missions”, and train and live for inequity.

Pup, the main character of the play, is a normal kid of a well-to-do family. His only problem is not to know what is his purpose in life. Grooves, the antagonist, is going to provide him with something “worth” living.

My intention when I started to write this play was not to analyze the problem, neither psychologically nor sociologically. That would bring me through dangerous roads not only from an artistic point of view but also an ideological one; senseless violence is never justifiable. Therefore I undertook a more committed approach: to journey under the characters’ skin to connect with my own violence and bringing it to the edge. The discovery was astonishingly revealing: the violence is there, inside myself, inside of every one of us. Only our potential capacity

to tame it differentiate us from the wildest beasts. Inside every man there is a torturer, a buried assassin, a swine that we have to defeat in order to become a person. And every person has tools to do it: we all have the possibility to choose. To choose good is to catch the soul, because only the soul makes us understand that what the body and the mind ignore.

To take the spiritual path fortifies our tolerance and sensibility and open-mindedness and piety..., feelings that allow us to put ourselves in the role of the “other,” in fact “to be the other,” and to accept and value the difference. But this way of feeling requires a great effort, not only individual but collective too.

**To be able to make a world more peaceful and just, first we have to make ourselves more peaceful and just. If it is not done this way, every preemptive position of power will just make us a danger for “the others.”**

Pup and Grooves are two bored guys who—like two stones—rub and rub until the fire of tragedy strikes. Puppies with A Dark Gaze tells us how absurd violence germinates. But the protagonists can be anyone from any social layer, who carrying emblems and “*big words*,” threaten our streets and way of living.

**I only wish that this play, written in 1995 and nowadays so sadly relevant, becomes shortly a historical relic with no interest at all; a document that reflected a reality of past memories that were much worse.**

May clarity of gaze allow us to see beauty in diversity.

Paloma Pedrero  
Madrid (Spain). May, 2003  
Translation by Abraham Celaya

## Puppies With A Dark Gaze by Paloma Pedrero

SOME NOTES AND THINGS.

By Abraham Celaya

I just want to make mine a few *wise* words that people from different waves of the political spectrum wrote in mirrored past times. One could say that moral-politics are like Juan Sebastián de Elcano—the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Basque navigator who completed the first documented circumnavigation of the Earth. He sailed and sailed and ended up in the same place he started. In that case it was a great discovery, or better yet, the notation of a fact: Earth was always round. But it is important to acknowledge a fact to be able to correct it when needed—I do not mean the roundness of the Earth; just to correct our perception of a fact. It is very important not to suffer from the short memory syndrome because we will not be able to discover new journeys.

Ultimately any totalitarianism, from any edge of the spectrum, winds up at the same purpose: the annihilation of the human spirit. As Pedrero says “to choose good is to catch the soul” which ultimately is what it means to be HUMAN: diversity is just diversity; no “moral” judgement involved. Totalitarianism “is the future refusing to be born.” As E. Hemingway put it: “when it is past, it will have no history, except the bloody history of murder.”

We should journey together with Pup to discover that the apex of being human is to understand—over anything else—the respect for another human life.

### A FEW QUOTES

“Communism is not love. Communism is a hammer which we use to crush the enemy.”

Mao Zedong (1893-1976, founder of the People's Republic of China.)

“We enter parliament in order to supply ourselves, in the arsenal of democracy, with its own weapons . . . If democracy is so stupid as to give us free tickets and salaries for this bear's work, that is its affair . . . We do not come as friends, nor even as neutrals. We come as enemies. As the wolf bursts into the flock, so we come.”

Joseph Goebbels, 1928 (1897-1945 Minister of Propaganda of Nazi Germany under A. Hitler.)

“Fascism, the more it considers and observes the future and the development of humanity, quite apart from political considerations of the moment, believes neither in the possibility nor the utility of perpetual peace.”

Benito Mussolini (1883-1945, Fascist dictator of Italy.)