

To Be Lost

translated from Tagalog by Jeraldynne Gomez

Writer and translator's introduction:

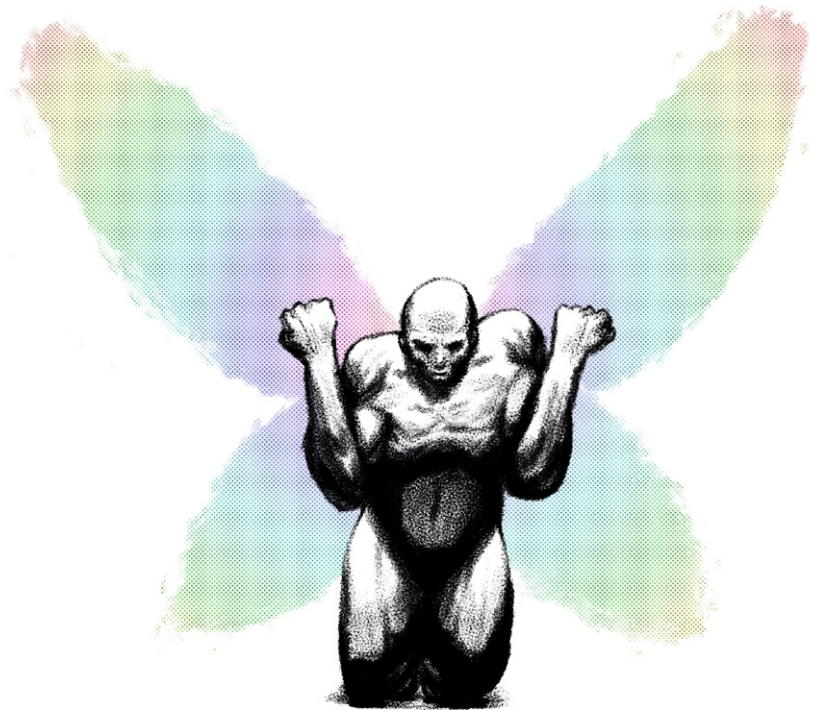
This poem titled Nalipol (translating to 'to be lost' in Tagalog) is written in the form of a Filipino haiku called tanaga. The 7-7-7-7 syllabic verse with an AAAA rhyme scheme allows for short prose with impactful meaning. Using such a format presents the importance of every single word and every single syllable yet when translated from Tagalog to English, some of the meaning is lost while new ones are made. Nalipol is about watching the world unfold right in front of our eyes and trying to find our place in the grand scheme of things. We're always searching between the lines of the world, gaining experiences that shape us to be who we are. Pieces of ourselves are lost between the translations of our experiences but new pieces are gained that bring us closer in our search for our own place in the world.

Nalipol

Hindi nga ba mahirap?
Kapag wala rin sulyap
Sa mundong nasa harap?
Palaging naghahanap.

To Be Lost

Don't you find it to be hard?
When you can't glance in regard
At the world ahead? I'm barred.
Always searching, always
scarred.



Transform by Daniel Cheung