

## A Fable · *Igor Calvo*

The priest says that not far from here,  
just above the church, there are  
poisonous flowers, guerrillas, black pumas  
dressed like doves.

And tells us, too,  
that only Satan dares  
to climb those mountains,  
and that anyone who goes there  
will be transformed  
into an animal or stone.  
I believe it's true, for the soldiers  
who left here (to hunt  
for flowers, guerrillas, flying  
pumas) have never returned. And we know  
that stones and predatory animals  
have multiplied  
up there, not far from the church.

*Translated by  
Roberto Márquez*