

Raphael Vargas · *Mexico*

THE SIGNATURE OF THINGS

It is possible that in every feeling
you could always find
its opposite:
Cruelty leads us to be extremely tender.
Selfishness impels toward generosity.
Every act of kindness hides a feeling of guilt.
Vanity lies crouched in every word of love.
“Hell is confusion combined with despair,”
said Dante.
“The purgatory is the conscience of both confusion
& despair.”

Then he kept walking
—a very slow pace—
to meet Beatrice.
translated by Leticia Tanticlaiux