

I REALLY TRIED

By Danko Betzhold

I used to be a happy child,
playing around and life was mild.
I had all I needed
mamá, papá as well as muchos amigos.

From one day to another though
all of this changed in one go.
I hit the road searching for a new settlement
in the hope of betterment.

It was not an easy choice
with friends and family left behind,
but there was this voice
telling me that I had no choice.

Ah! All I had I had given away
only to live in a much safer way.
For a future in which there was no more fear
in which all my sorrow would disappear.

I swear, I didn't ask for nothing more than that:
just a decent life in a simple flat.
They told me I'd be fine and I believed,
convinced that I would be relieved.

When I ran out of water I started to know
that I had a new urgent problem to fear
And that one wouldn't disappear,
until when things would start to feel hollow.

That's when I stopped worrying about tomorrow.
Now there were more important needs to follow.
I should have continued walking more,
But my body just felt so sore.

Trust me mum and dad, I really tried to stand up.
I really tried not to give up.
It was meant to be a break, to be clear.
I was gonna continue, I promise you my dear!

But then it just got calm.
A bird flew over me and said Hi.
I greeted back and thanked it for flying by.

That's when I started sinking,
Sinking into the deep waters of a never ending ocean.
I screamed to the bird, to tell me why
It should have helped me, or at least try.

Suddenly, the only thing I wanted wasn't water anymore
It was too late for that now, for sure.
I now just wanted to say goodbye,
and hug my family one last time.

Thanks for being here,
For taking away my pain
And for liberating me from fear
Of being forgotten.

This poem was written during the summer of 2018. Danko is German, studies in France, and was a summer intern with the Border Community Alliance in the Arizona borderlands.