Triptychtionary

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To remember (v.):

Recordar

Ji de

Is to ache,

to doler,

to teng.

Teng (n.): pain,

ache;

Teng (v.): to be fond of

What good is a childhood

home

language

if all it brings is

an ache, a dolor soft

against your sternum?

Something

long rising, winding its w_{0}

out of your chest

que billows,

que sale en nubes,

en da lang,

every time you cannot recall

the palabras deseadas

glowing, humming.

Cada vez que

kai kou,

I lose the words again—

wo ji bu zhu,

I can't recall,

no puedo recordar.