If everything were to be done again

Maurice Clerc 2006
translated from French by Abhi
Dattasharma, in 2009

(If two voices, voice 1)
Since you became a grand-mother
You would prefer if people would
rather not
At each of your birthdays
Mention the year and age on spot

And you meet the grandfather
Never alone in the bed
But usually with crossword puzzles
And hot water bottles for the night
instead

Yet, if everything were to be done
[again
We would say yes to each other
We would say yes to each other

(If just one voice)
Some evenings in the winter
Working on your embroidery,
stitching a chain
You dream of the cemetery
And listen to the patter of rain

(If two voices, variant for voice 2)
Some evenings in the winter
Working on my embroidery,
stitching a chain
I dream of the cemetery
And listen to the patter of rain

(If two voices, voice 2, else voice 1)
To go back to the Earth
When one is, as they say
As old as one's arteries
And the children are far away

(If one voice)
Yet, if everything were to be done
[again
You would say yes for sure
You would say yes for sure

(If two voices, variant for voice 2)
Yet, if everything were to be done
again
I would say yes for sure
I would say yes for sure

(Voice 1)
Do you remember, grand-mother

Our days those are gone
Our everyday and trivial sorrows
Our fluttering joys and fun

The one I cherish most of all
Is that funny gift that you
Gave me once, and still stays true
Sharing a spot of umbrella

And if everything were to be done
again
I would say yes to you
I would say yes to you

(If two voices, voice 2)
Do you remember, grand-father
When we were in Paris, right
At the beginning. We were living in
[*Daguerre street*
I worked during the nights

I became a mother twice
And then we left
I did not like that at all
But now I do appreciate

And if everything were to be done
[*again*
I would say yes to you
I would say yes to you

(Voice 1)
On the whole, grand-mother
We made it well, yes
Even if bitter tears
Sometimes showed its face

Yes, in spite of reverses
In spite of all sulkiness, see
I loved your angers, rage
And finally you smiled to me

(If two voices, voice 1 + voice 2)
Yet, if everything were to be done
[**again**
We would say yes to each other
We would say yes to each other

(Voice 1)
No heaven and no hell
For one can be impious, and
Not believing in mysteries
Yet giving others a helping hand

One doesn't need a god
In order to preach in life
That all men are brothers
Even if they are hostile sometimes

(If two voices, voice 1 + voice 2)
Yet, if everything were to be done
[**again**
We would say yes to each other
We would say yes to each other

(If two voices, voice 2)
We were young and proud
And very naive too
Our ephemeral passages
Didn't change anything, true

But no need to stay silent about it
We couldn't make it happen
And nobody can say today
The world has become heaven

(If two voices, voice 1 + voice 2)
But if we just close our eyes
We could imagine it is true
On the old stone bench
With friends, a few

Savouring the tender light
Half in sleep, half awake
Children born yesterday
Pushing us into sunset

Yet, if everything were to be done
[**again**
We would say yes to each other
We would say yes to each other

(Voice 1)
Come on, gramma
We will do foolish things
Brain teasing crosswords
And sudden midnight teas

We will go to the cemetery
But surely not today
We could even, grand-mother
Go back to bed!

(If two voices, voice 1 + voice 2)
Yet, if everything were to be done
[**again**
We would say yes to each other
If everything were to be done
[**again**
We would say yes for sure