Mongolian Blue Spot*

The blue spot, born with a symbol of life
Was found in North America
The Caucasus
And all of Central Asia
It's filled with indigenous colours
And like the American Indians
Reveals a bright-coloured pattern

Blue spot, like the Gobi
The Orkhon waterfall on the horizon…
And the Selenge River - its open waters
Mild, roundabout, intimate confluence
Of a few brilliant rivers
Then, these blue flowers
Blooming in Africa
Even in Latin America

Blue spot, like a piece of sapphire
Its quality natural, and the most native
As the snow lotus, obsessed with the Tian Shan Mountains
And Peruvian highlands, their grazing sheep
Babies, they also have a spot that looks blue
Often mistaken for a bruise
and worried about, as a possible maltreatment
But dear friends, I want to tell you more about
A palsied blue spot

That bit of blue
like waves, and like tenacious splendour
Grew also on my infant behind
And my grandma was the first to see it
Neither surprised, nor worried
Its growth has been good

Blue spot, birthmark of highland, native nomadic dream
Like the Caribbean, sometimes blue and grey, as the sky
Sometimes blueishblack, or dark brown

Just like the world, irregular in shape
And there is a border
And like the vast grassland
The unbroken Khentii Mountains
The clouds of Mexico, it's slowly swaying
Like Spanish-Indian mixed-breed horses

Blue spot, primordial colour of eternal heaven
My descendants will be proud of you
The birthmark
That was a surprise, as if one meets
Takhi - Mongolian wild horses

Blue spot, the totem of life

The heart of the steppes…
It never stops beating

* *Note: The Blue Spot, also known as Mongolian blue spot, was called thus in 1883 by the German anthropologist Erwin Bälz. Mongolian wild horses are also known as takhi.*

Night of the Steppe

The moon
sweetly falls asleep
with mother's blessing

the whole steppe, glows
in the milk pail
like a beautiful, fragile dream
of the nomad boy

– Hadaa Sendoo*

* *Dr. Sendoo is an internationally known, award-winning poet from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where he founded World Poetry Almanac which he continues to edit. He has published more than fifteen books of poetry and won awards including the Mongolian Writers' Union Prize. He is Professor of Literature at the Mongolian National University, Ulaanbaatar. Address: Dr. Hadaa Sendoo, P.O. Box 836, Ulaanbaatar 46, Mongolia. Email: hadaa_sendoo@ymail.com*