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# The Signature of Things

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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*