

Tramontana
(The Hellens Quartet)

Tramontana, Tramontane, Tramuntana, Τραμουντάνα is a classical name for a north wind, from the Latin trans montanus: beyond/across the mountains.

It is a mediterranean wind and blows in Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia and Greece, although the word does not just relate to wind: it can refer to anything seen as foreign, strange or barbarous.

First recorded by Marco Polo in the 13th century, the Tramontana is violent and cold, yet has earned the distinction of also being an environmentalist. For despite its destructive nature, it benefits marine lagoons by driving stagnant waters seaward, thus cleaning and oxygenating the bays.

Wind and wave, reordering of air and matter, destruction and renewal.

Ancient cycle of dispassionate equilibrium.

Disrupted.