



“Millares de luces temblorosas del puerto y de las viviendas de los altos cerros de Valparaíso laderas empinadas, llena de perros vagos, pobretona y sucia, una ciudad de comerciantes, marineros y vicios, como casi todos los puertos, pero maravillosa. Desde el barco brillaba como una ciudad mítica salpicada de diamantes. Nadie se acostó esa noche; se quedaron en la cubierta admirando aquel espectáculo mágico y contando las horas. Víctor habría de recordar esa noche como una de las más hermosas de su vida. Por la mañana el Winnipeg atracó por fin en Chile, con un gigantesco retrato del presidente Pedro Aguirre Cerda pintado en un lienzo y una bandera chilena colgados a un costado.”

– *Largo pétalo del mar*, p. 132.

“Thousands of twinkling lights in the port and dwellings on the hills of Valparaiso competed with the stars: it was impossible to tell where the promised land ended and the sky began. Valparaiso was an idiosyncratic city of stairways, elevators, and narrow streets wide enough only for donkeys. Houses hung dizzily from steep hillsides; like almost all ports, it was full of stray dogs, was poor and dirty, a place of traders, sailors, and vices, and yet it was marvelous. From the ship it shone like a mythical, diamond-studded city. Nobody went to sleep that night: they all stayed out on deck admiring the magical spectacle and counting the hours. In the years to come, Victor would always remember that night as one of “most beautiful in his life. The next morning, the *Winnipeg* finally docked in Chile, with the enormous banner of President Pedro Aguirre Cerda and a Chilean flag draped from its side.”

– *A Long Petal of the Sea*, p. 126.

Left: Spanish refugees disembark from the *SS Winnipeg* in Valparaíso.

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Refugees from Aragon, Spain, after arriving in Valparaíso aboard the *SS Winnipeg*.

“Entre la muchedumbre entusiasta del muelle había autoridades del gobierno, representantes de los trabajadores y las colonias catalana y vasca, con quienes había estado en contacto durante los últimos meses para preparar la llegada del *Winnipeg*, artistas, intelectuales, periodistas y políticos. Entre ellos se hallaba un médico de Valparaíso, Salvador Allende, dirigente socialista que al cabo de unos días fue nombrado ministro de Salud y tres décadas más tarde sería presidente de Chile.”

– *Largo pétalo del mar*, p. 134.

“Among the excited crowd on the quayside were members of the government; representatives of the workers and the Catalan and Basque communities with whom he had been in contact in recent months to prepare for the arrival of the *Winnipeg*; artists, intellectuals, journalists, and politicians. Also present was a doctor from Valparaiso, Salvador Allende, a Socialist Party leader who a few days later would be named health minister.”

– *A Long Petal of the Sea*, p. 127.