



Literary Page

diner doggerel

menelaus pinned porteus past all his shifts
and secured a safe passage from pharos to
greece
and he stood on the foredeck his eyes on the
sea
and the wind at his back for the first time in
years

oh was it all worth it
a decade at war
and almost another
on african shores

back in the town she was sure she was free of
helen is restless and good menelaus
never quite sure how to keep her in sparta
buys her a restaurant down by the water

but no one eats at helen's diner
no one enters at the door
the town remembers leda's daughter
and the men who went to war

daily at seven she opens for breakfast
though it's only the king and the men in his pay
helen wears slacks and a greasy white apron
while they fidget pours coffee and serves them
their eggs

oh was it all worth it
ten years of war
the dead and the missing
were brothers of yours

alone for the long afternoons in the dishroom
she sits by the sink with her face in her hands
deiphobos paris pemptus achilles
sea-changes transient as marks on the sand

oh in the dishroom helen's diner
time's as dirty as the water
hours clog and stand forever
days like eggplates stick together

Randy Campbell

Caliban Prospering

Slugs crawl out on warm concrete
pink flesh buried for months
blue veins staled by winter
begging the sun to burnish
the dead pale flesh brown

Searching for some dark libido
in shorts, sitting in small plazas
sipping salt marguerittas
in Italian-like lido dens
pale as insipid sea surf
melting after winter's frieze

Curl their lips they do
when they smell my hue
constant brown in blaze or freeze,
envy comingled with lust
covetting my stayed complexion
constant, unmolested, living

Smudged on concrete pink in dull light
brittle as ice stinging with heat
they won't melt in the sun
it is cooled by ice in trees

Covet my seed, they do
which massaged into flesh
becomes 'true brand' tanning juice
grow dark, they do
with my sperm
salty seed
drunk marguerittas
melting slugs...

Did you know
slugs melt in salt?

Kwame Dawes

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