

A Garden Shimmerwrapped

Poems by Leon Fernandez

*Among wondrous things is
A veiled gazelle, whose
Pasture 's a tryst-place
'Tween breastbone & bowels,
A garden shimmerwrapped.*

(from Ibn al Arabi)

Dedicated to:

David Daniels, enlightener of my Intuition;
Christopher Daniels, beacon of my education;
Mark Terwilliger and Oceansong Edgar for
their steadfastness in Friendship;
Tom Crump for his generosity of spirit.

Palaemon

In Siren-taught ears Raven-
Hymned spheres resonate choreo-
Graphed dorian refrains echoing
Ionian strains & inspire ivory-
Bowed aeolian lyres. Surround-
Ing Hesperidian isles Ladon's
Sinuous rills bless Persephone's
Pomegranate orchards and Aphro-
Dite's golden apple groves. In
Our rough western verses, we
Serve one dish from vast Hom-
Eric banquets of Minoan myth;
And our Californian harvests
Reverberate to new Castalian
Songs for leaping past Altair
Delian dolphins lead the Muses
From the Hyperboreal islands to
This porphyry-vined Naxian land.

Saturn's Dancefloor

Primal skeletal remains com-
Pressed and embedded yield
Quarried canopic & columnar
Marble for psyche's embowered
Sanctuary; within the volutes
Of rampant and quartz-pronged
Brains are fashioned and rung
On point, counterpoint spheres
Which hang from Callimachus'
Royal palm of date-nut copper
Whose pith flues marrowed sap
Through solar-hewn grottoes,
Pineal and labyrinthine:
Daedelus' walled hall of Minos
Who sits in taurian welcome o'
Those dolphin-borne souls over
Jove's emerald-dark Stygian seas.

Entelechy

Osiris nightwatcher wakens darkling
To his heart an inverse pyramid of
Light raying shafts to latent organs

As if Aetna topsyturvy fissured
Magma to enfertile Sicily's soil
From Earth's plutonian core our Lethe,

His eyes sprouting spectralpale crocus
His nose anemone breath tongue flick'ring
Ranunculus tapered fingers jetting
Hyacinth blue and his ears red tulips.

Beneath Horus' Elysian gaze Isis
Aids her lord in remembering life's
Aortic highlands of impressions map-
Ping floodplains of his flesh grain by
Fecund grain to restore a desiccate
Bulb to a verdant asphodel delta.

Coastal Reconnaissance

From the fury of stormy surf
ramming a shore
My affective life resolves
to a bay's calm
& I wonder if Life's current
isn't primally
One of psychic agony's re-
concilement into
Liberty's balm, a halcyon
cove nurturing
A seaglet who looks peace-
ably upon my
Tidal immersion in friends'
emotions har-
monizing polarized will
with need by
Whirling an axis whose
cyclonic eye
Focuses mirrored cognition
on one sure I.

Intimate

Psyche, lambent butter-
fly, rejoice
Thy amberveined wing
zephyr-wrought
Aloft, for pleasure's
reckoning
Beckons from within
Nous' acorn
Of flame; enter thou
arcanum
Past sorrow's preter-
nat'ral gasp
To my embrace, Love's
everglades:
Rise Farfall, singe thy
slipstream rime!

Rigel Kentaurus

A brooding thunderhead thrusts
Piled crag upon crag & Caucasic
Cobalt-hued brows blast levined
Forethought abroad, fire rooted
Bowel-deep thru Earth's marrow;
Kindling mortality's loins sigh-
Ing protean swells o'er wombs,
Pyroklept Prometheus, narthex-
Bearer, shuttles wrested star-
Light from Sirius, Cassiopeia
Rhea's Bear & Orion, perenni-
Ally stirring pleasure's spark
Of revelation 'tween face-to-
Face souls. Titan Agonistes,
Thy savior shafts a pale-eyed
Hawk, diurnal doubts gorging
Thy orogenic liver having once
Wounded his mentor's hoof who,
Martyr immortal now plunges thru
Hell rooting up thy Tartarean spurs.

Ligeia

Blackhaired Beauty shimmers down
 Goldenfaced into my embrace
With eyes of candid brown,
 Pearl-opulent teeth sparkling
And frank gaze, her scarlet smile
 Slightly shy. My humanity
Fulfills itself shedding pride
 My left hand behind her head;
Her left eye fond Canopus
 And her right burning Sirius
Columba flutt'ring overhead
 Past Orion's Eridanus;
As the Pleiades she flocks
 Through gazelle's glossy antlers
Losing herself as Andromeda;
 With Pegasus' lightning
Wing and stomping thunder
 She rides over Scorpio's
Shaula, stinging supernovae;
 Vanishing again at Hikmat
Al Qasari, Abu Yezid's
 Right hand, she's seen gyrfalcon
Winging solitary, 'mbraced by
 Israfel annihilated, home.

In Atavistic Vision

I imagine Dylan Thomas on
A wild Welsh beach, drinking
Flights of cormorant and crow
As whisky-primed limbic neur-
Ons burgeon like ripened figs
In incendiary metaphor;
With fresh-naked bones o' soul
Within fogs thickly-cloaked
& crepuscular, coasting his
Heart's compassionate shores
He mirrors neolithic anguish
As ore's metamorphosis o'er
Cavernous floors into flared
Gold drops hypnagogic dross
As fat, blazing bestial dances
From sooty, torchlit spires on
Our modern Magdalenian doors.

Circum Polaris

Glare, agate-eyed Dracon
With leonine intent; Per-
Seus scans Altairwise a-
Long the solstitial colure
From magnetic north to true
Forming Athena's cuprichrome
Mirror to swath his falchion
Of gold, and collar Medusa's
Sinewy head, breathless &
Austere; sure thee he'll
Petrify, for thy pitiless
Allure hath drawn innocent
Andromeda, enchanted above
Colluvial wastes yet faithful
To her maidenheart's hope for
A heroic, igneal-eyed savior.

Crux Borealis

Odin, greatest bard Teutonic
Thy carven heart rune-embossed
And gold-enamelled, breathless
Root abyssal; with white raven
Overhead thy gallows tangents
Shadow abreast leaden marrow &
Pendant hypothalamus, resinous
Art 'ou 'midst heaven; cruciate,
Exude amber-pale pearls ast 'ou
O'ergaz'st thine Ygdrasil boughs.

Terrestrial Paradise

A Babylonian tree with lazuli trunk
Rich carnelian branches affixt
In chrysonephrite sockets belljar-
Shaped & sparked by a pendant agate
Lamp in arch chrysonephrite niche
Glow empirical, niche & sockets shine
Eight of nine diaphanes; now each
Extends a dimension like mercury
Through carnelian then distends,
A mercuryball before falling back
Into commoncosmic Superstring.

The gardens of Babylon hang vines,
They're likened to hair over dermis
Subterranean cataracts plunge and
Pool enriching hypogeal fissures
While endocrine secretion refines
Synaptic uptake ionizing atoms
Into sympathetic neurons in clusters
As ganglia and plexi for harvest by
Self-valent psyches o' rare vintage.

Each diaphane one by one gathers
Craneflown impressions; distilled
Cranially, enfixed thalamically for
Lamp reignition they'll radiate raven-
Winged lobes of light wind-synchronic
To thresh neutrino-fields to glazed
Massless grains for a magic mirror
Which reveals without reflection one
Resonant with Hymns from the Spheres.

Serpens

Within the womb of Ophiion
Loom stellar nurseries of
Deep, sapphire blue, while
Proximal lacustrine Acheron
Bursts supernovate debris
Along astral plains which
Serve amalthean nymphs in
Their milk-churning dance,
Whirling exotic ecstasies
Inside glacial, cloistered
Moraines; before returning
To our galaxy's cardiac pit
They unveil in a shimmering
Aortic niche to bathe in a
Mirrored solar sphere and
Privily witness subaqueous
Firmaments of opulent pearl-
Grown stars which spectrally
Radiate nacreous globate hues.

Notes:

Palaemon is the resurrected Melicertes, son of Ino.

Naxos is home to Dionysus.

Callimachus was a Classical Athenian sculptor & engineer.

Intimate's imagery is indebted to Ezra Pound's final Cantos.

Narthex was a giant fennelstalk used as a wand in Hellenic ritual.

Hikmat al Qasari in Arabic means "wisdom of the beautiful."

Abu Yezid is "Axis of the Wise."

Amalthea is the goat-nymph who suckled the infant Zeus in Crete.