

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Alan Britt: Three Poems

Alan Britt · Wednesday, March 20th, 2019

HOMEWARD BOUND

Baboon blue.

Tamarind bongos.

From the flames two hips
like turkey drumsticks
rise from rancid expectations.

Violin coveted by my former
self, hence, the distance between us.

Pedestrian dreams capsized by typhoons
begging us to taste the distance
between sentimentality & lived life.

Violin drizzles fat over iron grills.

Acoustic bass like the Queen's carriage
traversing a trail through the oblivious
forest locks lips with a viola spread
akimbo across Restoration velvet.

Priest directs spiritual traffic—
whiskbroom & dustpan in tow—
his Batman apron announcing one size fits
everyone who's ever lived.

Oily skin demarcates viola frets
that resemble egret clouds foaming
just off the San Fran coast.

Jerry Muskrat, suspended in all-weather
waders, & Granny Fox inspiring Cloris
Leachman's Frau Blücher, followed
by Grandfather Frog, the patriarch.

He escaped that Palm Beach private school
 & entered first grade with the ability
 to chew Crayolas into Triceratops
 then croon like a goldfinch trapped
 between jalousies overflowing

sea grapes & fuchsia bougainvillea
 while navigating Bermuda grass
 & reptilian sprinklers hissing their mist
 of jasmine & despair.

I know.

I was there.

Later, entering heaven via a different dream
 through literal clouds
 & landing flat on my belly
 atop a shag carpet softer than
 a blue whale's baleen plates below
 a white baby grand with two septuagenarian
 women smiling *Welcome home* six months
 preceding my boyhood Irish Setter submerged
 in a skein of oatmeal tick & flea dip, I realized
 my return to the place before I was born.

Both women, aforementioned, in their 70's,
 silver-haired, gracious, demure, & wafting
 ethereal twin morning glory gowns,
 were supremely confident
 about my future.

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BEAUTY

(*"Beauty is truth, truth beauty,"—that is all
 Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.*)

~John Keats

Yet, beauty terrifies. Some want to destroy it, want to stab, strangle, shoot & dispute it, undermine it, satirize it, sanitize it, spit on it, pock it with cigarette butts, terrorize it, smash it with a hammer, imprison it, incinerate it, outlaw it, ridicule it, shame it, ignore it, banish it, tax it, annihilate it, mutilate, sabotage, nuke & eradicate it, brutalize it, smash & deconstruct, debauch, torment, & demoralize it, subvert it, paralyze it, disgrace it, capitalize & crush it, harass it, prosecute, drown & cauterize it, defame, pollute & humiliate it, scandalize, ravage & shatter it, slander it, stigmatize it, debase it, disfigure, denigrate & molest it, electrocute & incarcerate it, forever, which makes it

sound so damned close to the truth—have we forgotten what truth looks like? Then perhaps it's time to flaunt paisley sundresses & tie-dyed t-shirts designed by shamans strumming sitars to inspire a basic mistrust of faux philosophers in Kevlar vests disallowing imagination to flow the way it did before we feared it might never flow that way again.

*

WASTING TIME

Wouldn't it be great
to make an alien laugh?

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