

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Peggy Dobreer: Three Poems

Peggy Dobreer · Saturday, February 12th, 2022

### Forbidden Plums...

or one blossom of Century plant crashing into sky from its Aloe bed.

A head falling slightly off the edge. There is laughter, vast as an Irish moor,  
warm as sun on spent dirt. A mug of old-fashioned shaving cream swallows  
a brush of fine boar's hair. An escape is made through an underground tunnel.  
Two lone bodies funnel into afternoon, glow into evening, sharpen to a fixed  
point. The point is this, I could have leapt right into crematorium blues.  
I could have ridden all that way searching, templated my prayers like a ghost  
in a cranial prison. I could have culled springtime from that shuttered winter.  
Then sirens went off. The neighboring hoodlums came dubbing to the beat  
of a tin drum carved etched with a message. A vase of hyacinth fell over with  
the weight of limping stems. A long-held privacy was marked for rapture  
and an ailing aunt passed quietly into air. She, an unusual child, whose  
freckles disarmed the holy gathered, held a forbidden plum in her mouth  
until a crimped light broke through a small window. You could see one bright  
flower in a crib of soft mud, like a solitary cloud wisping for miracles.

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### Fool's Gold in the Eyes of Love

“sac to tote my runny vitals grave ward,

first playground, last prison.” – Richard Selzer

This is my body, this house of peril,  
primate in Durga’s hell. Cellmate of toss  
and drum, scars of mind and mental  
slips and falls. Bright gardens of veritas,  
you plant my coarsened chamber, a germ  
so deep, it won’t be washed away.

Your sleet of restraint, seeds of hope where  
none were sown, where nothing before spread  
such suchness in loud full tones. You hold me  
in places unknown and familiar. Your pitched  
grace gaveled. Gentle and floweredy fulcrum.  
May it break over me like dawn’s gloried spark  
like a gemstone in a day’s quandried fervor.

This is my body, invisible acre, moon lander,  
cold star of stars coming out on this dark  
Corona, this black depth of coal shaft, kettle  
bottom thunker, once leaf hewn and shade  
provoking, provider, now boom lowered,  
calling our courage back. Flesh and chant,  
rutilated breath, delicate provider, insider  
and long left out.

\*

## Tine & Promise

When the wax has been pulled  
and filed to a shape most  
pleasing to the carver’s hand.

When the kiln is fired and  
flask set dead center, heat  
rounds the silken core

and in those first few hours  
the mold will ooze and grimace,  
roasting away in

the unforgiving glare. We sneak  
a look, and heat waves peel  
across the studio. Green folds

into carbon black behind a steel  
armature, burst and sizzle, biding

time, hiss and song of industry.

Then the latch is unhinged,  
tongs grab clumsy in mittened  
hand. Torch is lit. Crucible brought

to the heat for the pour. The steady  
draw. Vacuum pump pulls the metal  
ring ward. Empty channels fill to sprue.

Then water hits the rim and white cylinder  
turns calcium stream. The yet dull golden gift  
plunks the sink, unpolished tine and promise.

This entry was posted on Saturday, February 12th, 2022 at 7:26 am and is filed under [Poetry](#), [Literature](#)

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