

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Zaji Cox: Three Poems

Zaji Cox · Wednesday, August 5th, 2020

### The Turning

I stand in-between,  
knowing and not knowing  
of shifting leaves  
against a turning season's skies,  
trees that shed  
or bloom with abandon  
hugging nests that are  
not quite built,  
in a forest that is  
not quite grown.  
Grass in its greenest curls around my feet  
in a tangled embrace.

A home in the not-quite-grown  
I have found in the forest's youth.  
Perhaps I am here  
because I see a self.  
Perhaps I am here  
to wait,  
watching  
and hoping  
for a yield to a growth both wild  
and new.

\*

### Summer

Beads

down my skin

I am exposed

it's too hot:

Heat exhaustion—I can't cover myself any more,  
but I am compelled  
because of the eyes like beads.

Men.

And women.

Too many. I can't be out here

I will faint from the heat

or the eyes

like sweat.

Beady

rolling

down my

bare skin.

Too hot, it is too hot.

\*

## Water

The lie lives in my body.

Water is redundant while in constant redefinition.

Desire to become it, to become

washed free of my deception;

to create new rivulets

where I have created untruths,

rests on me:

shame's adolescence.

One rule, eroded.

I came like an eel,

dark and sleek from the periphery.

Guilt claims us both—

I refuse it in full—

but the rule needed two to break.

My redefinition weighs heavy as sand.

Torrid waves weave Ocean's new self,  
gorgeous

---

and indifferent.

I pray for its guidance;

it shuns me and weaves.

On and on, it creates its constant truth.

On and on I weave redundant,  
to seek my constant truth.

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