

Perspectives

by J McCurdy

There is a level of rage
 Stuffed deep inside
 DNA
 Hidden between molecules
 Formed like lava
 From generations of unaddressed
 Oppression and violence
 The voices of all that I am
 And all that I ever will be
 Are relentless
 Pulsing out with each hearts beat
 They have spent the whole of this lifetime
 Forgiving the unforgivable
 Pressed tightly back
 Behind
 Pacifying smiles
 And tomorrow's sun...
 And honestly I fear
 The time
 I ever let it see
 The light of day
 For the damage it would do
 Because after all there are things
 That can't be unsaid
 Or become undone....
 Then it occurs to me
 Like a wayward child
 That if this is the way I feel
 Deep in the marrow
 Of my oh so temporary bones...
 Imagine
 Just for a moment
 How our mother the earth
 Feels
 When after centuries
 Of raping and torturing her
 We come and sullenly
 Suck at her tit

Passing

by Kareem Ali

In early morning
 I stand perfectly still
 Anticipating the tissue of night
 In the distant meadow
 I see you
 Swimming into a quilt of trees,
 Out where
 Blue hibiscus settles
 Into a thousand fissures of light
 And there,
 The day finally arrives
 Drenching you in
 A cracker crumb trail of rain
 And as you collapse
 Into deeper waters
 The hardened quicksand
 Of your memories subsides

Resolution Denied

by Steven Miller

Why do I make promises at the first day
 of the year
 To myself that I wouldn't make
 to anyone else?
 Then feel free to break
 That promise I made to me?
 Lose weight, I'll do "push aways"
 Push my ass away from that second plate...
 I hate myself when I break weak,
 Only for a minute though.
 Not go to the bar as much, drink less,
 I know I'll drink a bunch
 I have a hunch that resolution
 isn't going to be a solution I'll find...
 this year.
 Spend more time with the family...
 That one should be easy.
 I spend five minutes with Aunt Wheezie,
 Yeah, I feel sleezy as I sneak out the door.
 Quit smoking cigarettes...
 You bet, the strongest addiction yet...
 Thirty days no smoking
 And I'm puffing like a train, again.
 So this year, I'll just say
 My resolution is to stay resolution-free
 Because I'm tired of lying to me.

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