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ADONISM

SOME POEMS BY MANRAY



RIDGEFIELD NEW JERSEY

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SPRING

In these dull tentative days when every little plant timidly pokes her head out of the ground and quickly withdraws again if one observes her — impatiently my desire reaches toward the full-blown summer, the love-steeped, confident summer when nothing is denied and nothing withheld.



PORTRAIT



love bruised hands

O winged face

O rooted body

In naked dress encased

With silent girdle round the waist

And full toned trinkets round the throat

O bodied soul

By love set free —

The sun embraces the desert

And the desert its oasis

While a whole life

That varies from beginning to end

Contains itself.

INTRUSION

was moving over a winter landscape -
The snow drifts were as mountain ranges,
And the frozen pools great white deserts
with here and there where the water still
rippled, an ocean,
And the black trees huge sky pillars
Their branches tapering away as if in perspective -
And nowhere a sign of life or of movement
outside of myself.
Then as I hung over the whole like a god who
had just created it -
Suddenly a human figure entered on the scene -
As if an ink blot had fallen on this page -
And marred it.

HIEROGLYPHICS

The snow has fallen -
A great white page lies open -
Naked black trees rise out of the white -
Words written in black on white -
A dead language.
Clothed men and women are walking about -
Words forming themselves in black on white -
A living language.
People are killing each other -
Words are being written in red on white -
A dying language.
The sun appears - words are written in fire on blue -
Life and death relax -
O silent melting language of eternity!

RESIGNATION

Twixt sleep and death

Joy lives -

A bitter joy?

Then sleep.

Awake!

come joy -

and wait -

come death -

Sleep.

NO RELEASE

Deep breathes the mind -

Darkness is dead.

The black shell has fallen away

Leaving the glowing heart.

The blue flames lick the red coals

And writhe joyfully -

Noda is here.



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