

THE ACID OF ACCIDIE

POEMS BY

ANTOINE TARSER

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WAITING

I wait

For my eyes to be the birds

My arms to be the trees

My ears to be the sound of rain

I wait

For talking to stop

From within and without

For ideas to dissolve

To leave just what is

I wait

For hate and love to leave

For concepts to fade

For things to be as they are

SUPERMARKET TROLLEY AND OTHER WORKS

There's a supermarket trolley in the duck pond
A modern installation

Ripples of parody grabs our attention
A rupture of common sense notions

An artist hurled this structure deep into our murky
consciousness

The fleeing ducks, our deep rooted repressions

Coloured with coke cans
We can sense the limping, bleeding animals

Stumbling into forest fires
Rotting like Mattresses in the autumn leaves

With Perceptions undressed
A new insight for the eye

Junk becomes truth
Truth becomes lie

Like the washing machine
Asleep in a lay-by

I AM THE SKY

Looking at the sky filling two holes
Filling my eyes
Like air fills a room

Open the door and there's no outside
And no inside to hide in
The sky fills my mouth like water
I was an observer
Now I'm just the sky

Throw a bottle in the river
It fills with the river
Then the glass breaks
And there's only the river
Nothing can contain it
Like the sky, hovering above
There is no separation
No distance between us
No *difference* between us

I am the sky...

WITH CHILD

Human female skin shimmers white against the rising cliffs

She rolls over –

A long backbone, like a dinosaur's remains,

Pushes up from the surface of the earth,

Gulls scream and soar across the sun

She reaches behind her,

undoing the strap

Merging with geology

like the birds' eggs

Partially hidden,

poised from treacherous drops

On the horizon, the sky touches the sea

Vulnerable, breakable beneath the stones

She sleeps-

A slumber pulls her through ancient layers

She'll awake from a dream, as the tide rushes in

New genes awakening within her

WOMEN SAY THAT MEN ARE ANIMALS.....

Eyes are molluscs
Two snails sliding
Tentacles twisting
Urges rising

Hands are spiders
Fingers groping
Spinning webs on
Prey for choking

Mouth's a Jellyfish
Looking to sting
Injecting poisons
Deep within

Blind mole's digging
Kicking back dirt
On subterranean
Full alert

Cobra spits
Its venom to stun
The animal's human
And he's going to run....

OLD PHOTOS

Between Christopher Columbus

and Salmon Rushdie

My brother's daughter

is stroking a long dead cat

We're eating Christmas dinner

and I can see something

In my own eyes

A look of dread?

These photographs

Are angled like gravestones

Mum is smiling,

standing next to the Christmas tree

Looking out from this folded up, shelved, cobwebbed past.

ACCIDIE RAP

No tradition to defend,
No ethnicity
My skin colour says nothing about me

No country,
No identity created
From arbitrary geography

No political agenda
Disguised in poetry
No fight against the repression of
Sexuality

No history
To define me or fill me
With fake nationality

No gold medals,
Or victory
To bring on paroxysms
Of ecstasy

No convictions,
No orthodoxy
To pledge my allegiance
To some damned hypocrisy

No grasp of monarchy
No fight against the
Hegemony of Patriarchy
No higher entity judging me
No life of eternity
Nothing to convince me
But the acid of accidie
Yeah, the acid of accidie

WE DRANK WINE

Tonight....

We drank wine and listened to music

Others closed the eyes of their dead

You protested about something from upstairs

While blood ran from brave men's chests

You fell asleep while I was giving my opinion

People died, protecting their lives

I turned off the news and twisted the corkscrew

Into another bottle, like a bayonet

Envious of something

LOOKING FOR TRUTH

Sometimes I stop thinking about

Sex, money, winning the lottery,

- being famous...

Instead I just want 'the truth'

And so I go looking for it

And not finding it

on any supermarket shelf

I buy a beer instead

and forget about it

But I see it flicker briefly

in the face of the girl at the

checkout

A moment of truth hits me
as she gives me my change
And I cannot share this
unexpected wisdom
Without her eyes changing
and me seeing myself
As she would see me

HOME GROWN

NUMB

My fingers form that word
I'm crawling across the desert

NUMB

My eyes are like walnuts
I am so, so...

NUMB

The glass in my hand
The burdens of the world
Too heavy to hold
So I just put it down
I'm so wonderfully NUMB

Collapsed like a star
A light shines through the cracks
I'm walking boldly in the gaps
I smile that I'm here
I can't help but grin
I grin and grin with the numb



NAN

Suddenly you're not watching

and the telly means nothing

New cars, mobile phones,

breakfast cereals

Busy themselves in the room

with the fading light

Night falls and still

the endless chatter

No-one turns on the light

No-one is listening

The adverts come to nothing

Cutlery rattles in the kitchen

A car speeds by outside

Someone knocks on the door

But there's no answer

Two cups of cocoa

in a friend's hands

One of them going cold

Photos of grandsons smile

in the dark

Lost in another time

In their frozen faces

They're trying to thank you

For the sweets and presents

The sixpences

that became fivers

I always wrote back to tell you

What I had bought

I bought you flowers

I know you would have liked them

UNTITLED

Fall from this ledge
Let go and fall
The rocks below will catch you
They'll yield and nurture you

Let them rearrange you
Feel your blood return to the sea
Feel the joy in the dead-eyed gulls'
Unexpected discovery

Drop the act
Don't try any more
Cut the strings and drop
The pointless fight with gravity

Flesh on stone
A strong percussive melody
As atoms reunite again
In grateful similarity



STILL LOOKING THROUGH WINDOWS (FOR MUM)

I look in the mirror

To see your eyes

My nose and lips

Are yours

I look beyond the mirror

To find you

Not knowing where you've gone

I see only me

I remember waving to you

When you walked away

I remember the huge windows

And you getting smaller, disappearing

My heart was in my mouth

As the world closed in on me

You always came back

I know you never left me

Your love protected me

You always came back

To take me home

I drifted in a world I never understood

Trying to find a direction

I couldn't find what I was supposed to be

Fought with invisibility

You were always there for me

There never was anyone but you

Who understood me

Still looking through windows

I wave but you're no longer there

Disappeared and not coming back this time

So I search for you in myself

Find your heart still beating in mine

Put my arms around myself

And wait, pretending you're coming back

To take me home again

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