

Gabe Gomez

Strophe

Of the old myths printed  
on vellum and water  
all fall opaque  
wide as mouths  
chewing and peaking  
on the waves of open watts  
as they spill from the satellites

On this table  
my friend laments  
the resting body  
of a girl her father  
sculpted from stone  
her legs snapped  
at mid-thigh  
broken neatly on a hairline seam  
buried in the crisp obsidian

Three languages resisting  
the silence of trinity  
of body of spirit  
of the voice spelling it out

Into a new art  
limbs of new light

Anti Strophe

You've only begun to believe  
this warmth escaping from  
the earth at sunset  
chasing the noon of sunlight  
into darkness and the day  
it leaves remarkably  
tuned

From it  
another face rises  
to her surface  
as my friend speaks  
over the segments  
of the body  
back into one

The sculpted girl had once  
stood           stared  
into the heaps of our world  
until she had fallen  
from her abrupt edge

Twisting from her  
womb toward it

Before the Common Era

there are evenings  
when rickety egrets  
fork the rutted mud

one leg adrift

now and again  
these profane minutes

contour  
the wetted stride

air is stimulant  
to their  
crooked hunting

under moon  
an egg

male  
and  
female

a music  
embodies  
their wandering

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one would think  
that they perch  
at night

heads  
in their  
billowing wings

but they too  
are sleepless

driven into hours  
of slow arrests  
abrupt beginnings

postulate  
at once

revving  
to thrust  
at once

wait

and their sculptured angles  
erupt from the pecking

a night crawler  
eviscerated in  
the bird's throat

a swimmer  
stressing  
the fluid surface

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You ran to the dictionary when I made up a word  
looking pleased, you refuted its meaninglessness  
read up on the very question that awakened you

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angled geese  
afloat in the  
second ocean

disrupted  
at the foreign  
body

ambling  
through the  
darkened water

find patterns  
in the mayhem

from patterns  
in their flight

confront  
the disorder  
for order it is