

## Dustin Pickering

### Calm Embrace

*for Alyssa*

I fathom you from a distance,  
                  gold cloud, dream,  
                  dust of my sorrow.  
I only kiss you in the mirrors of eternity.  
Your heart is a cage of desire,  
                  gripping my energies tightly,  
                  girding my eager heart's paradise.  
I reach my mercy toward you like an empty tomb—  
                  torches of terror and fire insurmountable  
                  bleed onto your countenance,  
  radiant as a dove.

We linger in love as lustre lost—  
                  the shadows know no sacrifice in their hell of circumstance.  
Unthinking, I clutch your back, move softly toward your body,  
                  kiss your breasts fervently like a madman unhinged.  
I thirst for your warmth.  
We complement each other.  
We are an earth together. Let us bring the fire.

**Black Snow**

“O endless wrath of God...”

Canto XIV

I eat the dreams I become—  
seeking benevolence, false,  
the road is dark and glum.

A sinister grin from harpy’s lips,  
I wait these times of its fear:  
from Golgotha mount I take my sips.

A devil wracked by hunger & pride,  
I slave the sludge of my own demise.  
The honest conscience in which I confide—

is fed with rain and tar, burning sand.  
Hills of shit obscure my chances.  
Freedom from torment my soul demands.

I eat the flesh from my fathers,  
sinning as a beast in glutton’s eyes.  
I make the future a passing blur.

Thick, thick heart of devils with whom I *plead*:  
free me from the chains of wrath.  
Hunger for wisdom will be my soul’s greed.