

Matthew Dennis

### The Labrynth

#### Entrance

There is a mouth, a mouth that grins  
And when I shiver  
He shivers; him  
Not in an agony of fright  
But in ecstasy and stark delight

I'll never know why he ever came  
I love him not,  
He feels the same  
And as fear of him his lust compels  
Sure hate does lurk within our shells

The path we take is changed sometimes  
And I changed his  
Less he changed mine  
The past and present soon forgot  
The future: endless Qliphoth.

Husks

When I looked into the sun  
I saw  
Her ancestors fighting,  
A great  
Serpent pinned beneath eagle's claws  
The tongue split  
Down the middle and the snake followed  
Now,  
Two snakes beneath eagle's claws  
One passed  
Shedding skin with clear white eyes

In my dreams I found the great bear  
She is sick  
Milky eyes and hot frothy breath choking  
She screams,  
Slides onto her side, her brown fur greasy  
From her belly,  
White crabs cut their way out and scuttle through,  
Their shells  
Are tinged with the deep blue of pelagic seas  
The clicking  
Is witness to the absence of her sound

Beneath the deepest ocean waters,  
In the black,  
Weird men move in repetition  
Their faces  
Covered by featureless masks  
They pray  
With the slowest of motions  
At an altar of basalt  
Un-crushable by the enduring pressure  
The weight  
From their backs, is lifted by songs floating up to the sun

Without your voice speaking through me  
I am dead  
I am a container for your sound, a shell  
Filled with echoes  
Of a mollusk's noise, found on a quiet beach  
Please speak,  
Please cry out in fury at the sadness of the void  
I am here  
Where are you? Why won't you talk anymore?  
If we do not meet  
Again,  
I loved you and will not love  
Again.

## Lord of Dead Bodies

The parasites float to the top  
Of the old water  
Dust gathers in gray canopies beneath the shelves  
If beer cans had souls,  
This would be their purgatory  
And they would weep at being unfulfilled

I can't clean up anymore  
The world goes on,  
Decay's clock ticks endlessly  
Things pass  
And  
We go on,  
Stop.

The dispersal of energy and matter is a waste of Time  
Space should listen to the ageless black  
The hole between that does not change  
Hear peace in the silence of endings  
And feel content in the touch of stillness  
All being should rest in quiet  
And forget the sadness of sound

We looked at the crumpled leaves  
And the old popcorn, that was hard and soft  
I thought about falling from a balcony  
And the passing of wind and windows by my face,  
Half submerged in the lake a log, with slime coating it,  
It floats up then sinks then floats then sinks then floats  
Then sinks then floats  
Then sinks forever more.

## Fleeing the Light

Outside of every body  
Is a mind that does not sleep.  
When we crawled out of our wave-lives,  
There was a reflection of infinity hooked to our souls by white threads

As I grew in darkness  
A fungus, needing no father,  
Spilled from a glowing cone  
I was instructed to breath by chemicals

Each of our choices has no meaning,  
There are but two options.  
Why question anything,  
When there is no absolute.

## Devourers

“Keep the harness tight.”  
He sneered through gritted teeth  
“Break the ankles if you have to, I want  
Her tight to the ground.”  
The big horse shifted,  
Her eyes rolled and steam whistled  
From wet nostrils

When we cut her heart out  
She blew air out of herself at a surprising rate  
She shivered, rocked, did not scream  
Soon she was still and warm instead of hot  
We threw the heart in a pile of hay.  
There is no ritual here,  
Only death.

## The Desolation of God

Shame has come like an old blanket  
Like the sky  
I have asked succor from the merciless  
I have tried to resist the irresistible  
There is cold  
There is stillness  
There is shame  
And there is  
Stillness.

Center

Before you go to bed, pray  
When you wake up, pray  
After you eat, brush your teeth.