

Wilderness House Literary Review 12/2

Dennis Daly

Mazar Hotel

Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan

Transgressions must have brought one here,
Into the pillared grand hotel,
Down regal stairs with chandelier,
Anxious halls in muted eggshell.

Into the pillared grand hotel,
Windows used for target practice,
Anxious halls in muted eggshell.
All impersonate the guiltless.

Windows used for target practice
By roaming armies in the field.
All impersonate the guiltless;
Where killers once stood, now they kneel.

By roaming armies in the field
Destruction came this way and left.
Where killers once stood, now they kneel,
Absorb the shock of human theft.

Destruction came this way and left,
Wrecked the tunnels, blew the bridges.
Absorb the shock of human theft.
There are no other messages.

Wrecked the tunnels, blew the bridges,
Left spacious tubs with broken feet.
There are no other messages,
Only vacancy and deceit.

Wilderness House Literary Review 12/2

Left spacious tubs with broken feet,
Down regal stairs with chandelier,
Only vacancy and deceit.
Transgressions must have brought one here.

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Revolution

He picks holes in the hearts of kings,
Marches through the plumed and lavish guards
At the head of ruffraff's uprisings,
Renames anew the house of cards.

Marches through the plumed and lavish guards,
Breaches the walls, smashes the turrets,
Renames anew the house of cards.
Revolutions do lift the spirits.

Breaches the walls, smashes the turrets,
Bringing with him a bloody tide.
Revolutions do lift the spirits;
The slaughter of innocents glorified.

Bringing with him a bloody tide
At the head of ruffraff's uprisings.
The slaughter of innocents glorified,
He picks holes in the hearts of kings.

Wilderness House Literary Review 12/2

Daughters of Nabiim

Maternal voices cuddle them close,
They suckle their children, breathe out pang,
Listen through the years they value most,
Charged minds unloosed in boomerang.

They suckle their children, breathe out pang,
Abolish dirt, the dullness, the smudge.
Charged minds unloosed in boomerang,
The chemistry contrives to carnage.

Abolish dirt, the dullness, the smudge,
These daughters of daughters dice their fate,
The chemistry contrives to carnage.
No words remain to commemorate.

These daughters of daughters dice their fate,
Listen through the years they value most.
No words remain to commemorate,
Maternal voices cuddle them close.