

Festering Hope

by

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“Bush all around- Bush with no horizon, for the country is flat”

“a Nation of trees, drab green and desolate grey”

a Tongue so dry,

thirsty for a drop of hope

“She is not a coward, but recent events have shaken her nerves”

the dark red across her white sheets,

felt as if with her blood

she had shed her girlhood.

and with that the Bush grew denser

the Nation, solitary

the Tongue, arid

“as she was but a tyro, she could not moderate her style to the piano”

her fingers were slimmer and paler

His, fat and red like her sheets

Yet He was the one

to set

every tune

His piano, His sheets, His music

His she

His piano shuts off.

the cradling mattress callsfor

Echoes- Issue 14-Echoes from the Antipodes

His agile, rigid body
and the record starts spinning
“You will ruin your children
if you allow them
to do as they please,
and all the gold and all the fine furniture
in the world will never
make up to you for the misery
disobedient children will give you”

her forehead sky
burns like a feverish child's
when Sun gives place to moon.
and the creaking mattress calls for
her revered, unorthodox body
the cassette tape rolls
“it's the piano I envy”

she envies how no one minds
the mud on the keys
the fat fingers
“for ever strumming on it.”
she could be gentle
play tunes of old times
from when
“there was great beauty in the names
her people called her”

on the basis of frequencies

Echoes- Issue 14-Echoes from the Antipodes

her ears had never registered,
she hoped to quench her thirst,
“Hoping, if still from the deserts the prophets come”
like a feverish child

But He is agile
quick
“to plant the Cross upon your forehead sky”
the record spins
the cassette tape rolls
and she remains
“Still tender but within
the womb is dry”

And when
“the thunder rolls, and the rain
comes down”
it's in torrents
her eyes will
never register



Endnotes

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