

3 poems



Whit Griffin

God Of The Mystic Basket

Age of polished stone. From
 the stones of Deucalion. The
 books of Pheryllt, books older
 than the flood. Mother of the book.
 Printing spread down the Rhine.
 We're still using Caxton's extra
 letters. Unable to collect the necessary
 stories. Stories told with verve
 of monks smeared with honey. The
 monk's bent mountain. No substitute
 for the hemlock. Wooly adelgids all
 over my hemlocks. Wizard walnut tree.
 The silver chord, the vitalized chord.
 Crowned with full-berried bay. You
 shall become an oak and I a linden.
 No such thing as a perjured oak.
 The sun sent dragons to save Medea.
 The disciple swings between dualities.

Placate the chthonian powers. Burn
 consecrated corn before entering the
 cave. Where the fissures open up.
 Thunder makes the assembly dissolve.

The Search For Athena's Palladium

When it was in a man's mind
 to subdue the whole earth. When
 the wolf became the dog. In
 this theatre, no wood save cedar.
 Pearls of dark and livid color. No
 longer forced to march with seventeen
 days' provisions. Free will to the devil.
 432,000 spirit warriors guard the gods.
 Centaurs and serving men. The
 villagers felt their tutelary deity was
 fighting in person for their defense.
 Charlemagne slept with the spear of
 Longinus. Antinous gave Christ
 a run for his money. Newer faiths have
 stolen Ormuzd's thunder. Hadrian's
 out inspecting his monuments. Zenobia's
 retired to Tivoli. The army puts Rome
 up for auction. The senate decree
 the relations of Gallienus be thrown
 down the Gemonian stairs. Elagabalus
 marries Astarte. The ignorant cuckold
 has his wife decreed a goddess.

Thundering Legion

B was the human leg. A wedge
 of swans. A conspiracy of old people.
 Bear in mind, a bear cannot have a
 pouch. Something about pushing
 a baby through cheese. The speed
 limit of ketchup. Lots of cane in the
 sauce. What's in your Tussie Mussie?
 Tusser would have you stroke the basil.
 Never use metal on lettuce. Zenobia
 mounted her fleetest dromedary. As
 fleeting as Brunnetto's eglisserion. Grass-
 hopper brooches. Soothed with crocus
 potion. In the rhubarb triangle. Pineapple
 when young. Dee was deeded Canada, but
 died destitute. Ate the bustard into
 extinction. Nemean lion. Life beyond
 damson jam. Satsuma in a muddle, soft
 citrus at Xmas. King of the soft fruit.
 King Theodoric was honored with song
 as his body was carried off the battlefield.
 Lord of the milkmaids. The page becomes
 a maid of honor.