

1949

Chaos in the Valley

Jene Lyon

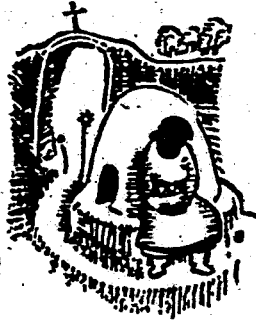
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PRIZE POEMS: *New Mexico Poetry Contest*



CHAOS IN THE VALLEY

My love perspired at the window
of the jellied city on the plain
with houndstooth and dogwood and winterbane
on shelves before her in formal attitude.
Oh it was good
to walk in that time before the grated window
like a silly lover; the cock preens before the hen.

My unclean love made water at the window
from her armpits and stared
the dust down the dehiscent alleys
of the city wrapped in cellophane.
The endless rubbish, pins and buttons
and old shoe buckles that accumulate.

At the window that looks in upon the city
standing and squinting she sees the
disaster of the age. Ruin and unclean man.

JENE LYON
(First prize: Category I)