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Dehlia Pinnata

Annette Dean

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ANNETTE DEAN

TOLEDO — EL GRECO

Revise the De Profundis,
 Else drape the borning Venus
 More easily than verbalize
 Toledo in the distance.
 Simpler to revenue stars,
 Or measure worlds of sleep
 Than grapple this (most pure
 embellishment of total man)
 To sheaves of pulp.
 The canvas groans its taut indictment:
 Here the Furies hover—gaunt Inquisitors.
 Air roils, weaving textures of rebellion.
 Fingers of light accuse both
 Castle and cathedral.
 Trees like green bruises
 Dot successive slopes.
 And, as with Rome, a sense
 Of all roads leading toward.

ANNETTE DEAN

DAHLIA PINNATA

Priest in a temple of the sun:
 Your starprong face invokes the sybil wind.
 Augury of grass that scimitars and clicks
 Proclaims a burnished land where,
 Bowing bronze, you wait on answer
 Swift as rain: the brass bright bee
 With omens dripping from his lips.