

Cultural Daily

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Sylvie Drake: "A Lemon Is Not a Lowly Fruit" & Two More Poems

Sylvie Drake · Thursday, March 7th, 2013

Sylvie Drake is a translator, writer, poet and a former theatre critic and columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*. A directing graduate of the Pasadena Playhouse, she was born and grew up in Alexandria, Egypt, and currently serves as Director of Publications for The Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

Egypt Re-Ignited

I saw the moon rise
 On the beach
 Once
 Levitating
 Behind a wall
 Over the living sea

I saw the sun rise from the lotus
 Quivering on the dark primeval waters

Country of my birth
 Kemet and Deshret
 Order and Chaos
 Land from whose Winds and Deserts
 I came
 Once

Land from whose chants
 I learned speech
 Heard echo
 Formulated sound
 Once

From your divided self, Egypt,
 I learned co-existence

Parched, gentle land
 Full of dread, despair and broken promise
 Where the light
 brilliant and infinite always
 brilliant always
 infinitely surprises

Where I saw the moon rise
 On the beach
 Once
 Making the gold one silver

Inspired by the Egyptian exhibit at the Denver Art Museum, June 1998

On the Advantages of Lop-Sided Hearing

Unilateral hearing
 is the selective solution

to noise pollution

simply by sleeping on your good ear
 you may choose, as you lie supine
 (and with apologies to Gertrude Stein),
 whether you want a hear here.

A Lemon Is Not a Lowly Fruit

Since lemon makes almost everything taste better
 Why is it viewed so poorly in our speech?
 It makes food tart, more interesting and wetter
 And all that pucker brings a kiss within our reach...

We are proud to premiere these poems in Cultural Weekly.

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