The Soul Of Man

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Cover Page Footnote

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Wet Blanket
Recall the past glory and pleasure
No one could forget such treasure
The cold resemblance of something warm
A wet blanket after a winter's storm
Michael J. Maranda, Jr.

Past
I wrap myself with a blanket of comfort and security
made up of memories from the past.
I have relied on this blanket (too many times to count)
as a barrier to protect myself
from the thoughts of others.
But as the seasons go by, the blanket has become torn
and tattered, and at each corner of my mind
it unravels.
I lose the names and faces of friends.
I look at the Mickey Mouse watch on my wrist for an answer.
The damn mouse just stares back with a smile of glee.
One glove-covered hand is on the one, and the other is on the
three.
A watch I have had since I was a child,
and it continues to tick away the time.
Once it held a memory of my youth but that also is gone.
Soon it will be too deathly cold to exist
without a blanket
Then what?
Troy Robinson

The Sun rises
To pray open our eyes
After a long surrender
To night's slumber.
The morning frost
Encases the earth
In the cold grasp
Of winter, in early March.
The warm rays of the sun
Penetrate the room,
Through the window,
Ready to perform
The daily coitus
Between man and nature.
But man is not a nature-lover;
He sits back

The Holy Land
Do you understand everything that has been said to you?,
Says my Father.
He is new to me as Prometheus' red flower was to my brothers.
My Father has always been away at the city
Resting behind pillars, looking down at the hills and the slow river.
Near my ritual time he sent me postcards
Inviting me to climb the hills and wade the river and fly
But this was not his hill or his river.
The places were far away, foggy with dreams.
He has come home to me from the dark in brilliant light
With shiny bracelets and fine stitched robes.
His face is queer and angry but he knows me —
He calls me son.
I don't remember him the same
His face soft and moving back and forth in the fire light.
He said he wanted my portrait and wash my hands in fine black balm.
He did not want to forget me.
He gave me his bracelets and then I knew
I knew I was not a boy but a man.
A bigger man than my father.
Because his bracelets pinched.

Roger Scalzo

The Soul of Man
In his towering cathedrals of stone,
Mortar,
Concrete,
And steel,
Perpetually contraceptive
To the embrace
Of the sun and the breeze,
The ocean and the trees,
Never wanting to walk
Barefoot on the sand.
As his work-ritual ends,
He drives away on the highway,
Racing towards the west,
Running away from where he has been.

Peter J. Duffy