The Starry Night

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THE STARRY NIGHT

An itching, sore, and sleepless eye
sees flesh upon the night,
spun and spiral flesh,
the petrified gyrations of an ingrown tear
which whispers through chapped lips
the gall and heartburn of depression in chains.
Stigmata of the night and of the
male and female heart,
the dowery of phantasm,
reflect upon
the eddy and descent
of a forgotten and discredited whiteness;
be moved by
the snake and whinny of the muddy cypresses
beneath the stabbed and tarantella moon
above the shrunken steeple of votaries and shrouds —
the pointing steeple
which would pierce the snow, the stars, the eyes
and mix the molten seed of brilliance with the dust.
Such an exorcism of fatigue
appears on canvas or papyrus
only when the cypresses alone are unblind to the moon
when the moon is tender to a writhing dryad
or when the lonely, blinking man
of brush or pen
or zodiac skull laid open on the sky
pans gold dust from a tear
to squander on a wisp of dream.

Gerald Ivan Locklin