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In Medias Res · *E. Grosholz*

The whip of pleasure sends us all,
our sensitivities bright red,
delighted, lightly nipped, to some extreme.
Herodotus observed that at the edge
of the recorded world, things grow more strange.
Hot spices and monstrosities
are carried in by camel to the center
where civil, solid folk are pleased
to pay a lot for something from the corners.

Thus we who cannot travel very far
but in imagination, sometimes fall
deeper into the boundaries
than tourists like Herodotus who saw,
made notes, and came away
all the more Greek for what they thought they knew.

Hard at the center, we undo
the casks of Scythia and the serpent Nile,
plunging through crimson, musk and wine
to find what we are dying to,
our secret folded there among the spoils.