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Poems

Mudrooroo Narogin (Colin Johnson)

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Poems

Abstract

Too Many Cooks in the Past, Talking in Hysterical Voices

Too Many Cooks in the Past

New vantage points, new perspectives, the first fleet flying
Aboriginal flags;
The historians hesitate over the wounded and wrench out nails from
the deck stairs
Leading to the death of the cook swilling in his bowl,
Digging in someone else's earth, sea-flying-sailing
Into areas where of not the right way
Arguments as to that drowning, as to how best to view
Problems of value devalued, overvalued and submerged
The seen is unseen, lost and missed in the swill.
Ought to see not to see the labouring to bring forth
A bloated carcass,
Structured on human beings through unrestrained restraint,
Just lying there, never striding forth to pepper the police station
With too, far too many skeletons in the cook's shall we call
it, broth?
Boiling over, unstressed flesh coming from the bone
At uninstructed attempts to escape a boredom of
Points of view, ideologies of undertakers,
And difficult to sort out burial service professors
Falling over them them them them themselves
To prevent fashionable accords
Coming forward to propagate discords
Based on higher salary ranges and prestige.

Talking in Hysterical Voices

- 1
Inviting a penetration, land seen
 as a specific feminine
Patriarchal voices, pricks, horses, pistols
 invade, enter, explore
Explode, break, exploit, denude, cover
 with the well-taken, well-broken.
- 2
Old people, fish, water hole, drink,
 muttering, broken words –
It seems that they were in some
 sort of trance –
It may be they had nothing to say –
 all said, all long time said –
No more, now; no more; long gone, ever gone.
- 3
Corridor, structural limitation placed
 on land,
Unable to relate to naturalness, gaps,
 walls, passageways,
Built up, brick by brick, stone by stone,
 plank by nailed plank.
- 4
Language into the naturalness,
 language into the all else –
Police stations, high rises, low rises, mansions
 palaces, persons and perhaps –
All words, all languaging
 the inability to be natural.