2014

Song of the Andoumboulou: 108

Nathaniel Mackey

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.7485
NATHANIEL MACKEY

Song of the Andoumboulou: 108

One thing I could say about ring was as it went around I felt uprooted. Ring was all I knew if I knew anything, aco-
lyte of not-know of late… Circling, put upon by he, she, they and we, Itamar, Mrs. P, all the pronouns, all the names,
Anuncio and Anuncia not the least. I wasn’t Anuncio but felt I was, Anuncia’s
hip against his his would-be world
without end, thigh rolled up on thigh, heavenly her atop him… Nut she might’ve been or he’d have had her tease,
pretend, there but not there, grudging intimate, blasé abandon, remote. Her faraway look he’d have
seen up close, offhand inti-
mate, nose dilated more by her own smell than his, reluc-
tance their upstart muse… Nut
she might’ve been, arced over him, loin musk opening her nose but uncommitted, above it all,
Egyptian sky… It was the rim of the well or the ring of the world. The well of the ring
might’ve been... Thought after thought after thought, arc in all of them, Nunca’s abstract behind his hands grabbed at, reaching past the one that was there... Ring’s farthest reach of mind it might’ve been. Round and round, mindless, I went... I wore lensless wirerim specs, closed my eyes, not to see what he saw, so put upon I was, not to see him and her looked at... They were the same, Andoumboulou, in each other’s face, faces where their legs met, neither knowing up from down. Ring was helical shout, the hill they went up and down, all its choric urgency theirs again, not to know so they might have their way, their gambit, shed their regret, have their shot... A dawning sound they wanted but dark and without corolla, solace at their beck, they thought, tugged from under them, a forwarding they felt taken back... They felt the verge they were on, the welling up, the wet lid, noquat lift and relinquishment, verge they wanted wiped away
They’d walked in circles holding signs, up with this, down with that, dream their suzerainty the slogan said. A slow dervish it wasn’t but was, a demonstration, a protest in love’s republic, love no republic yet… Mind at large, feet following, home where whim took them, newly named Fasa, strewn since who could say when, sought city farther off than God… The glad work of getting there they called it, no matter how grim they were, peripatetic stress of blood what there was of it, mind unattached, feet hemorrhaging, blown grit pepperling their skin… Around and around they went holding placards, circling some lack they protested, Nub’s embassy undone… It wasn’t Nub’s collapse or lost money they were mourning, elegiac birthright’s lurch and repercussion, it wasn’t as attributable as that… Blue sky lay above, ostensible benefice, Nut’s light disguise they thought
A subdued cry caught in
their throats leaked out, breath
packed in cracks in dry mud…
It wasn’t Zâr they were in
but
it might’ve been, Dread Lakes
diaspora they’d come thru
they thought, nothing no matter
where
they looked, flat cabinet, heaven’s
cracked integument coming
down… Glimpse and departure
love’s
currency they’d read, each the
other’s alternate book, lids heavy,
the
look they gave going
away
One thing I could say about ring was as it came around I said keep out of it, the we or the would-be we truly them, no tune lifted my feet... There was the world I reminded myself, Nub’s new entropy not to be dismissed, I nursed a low moan in my throat. Leaflets and confetti came down from the clouds, rain the ushering horns would have none of, trombones bolted my feet at ring’s edge, the one thing I could say stuck to my tongue... Ring was none other than rung, low brass expounded, lift I’d not be given to. I gathered my anguish in a bag, sucked wind and hiccupped, coughed and coughed again, coughed up straw...

Rung’s doubling back, doubling’s bolt it seemed it was, orbit arbiting light it might’ve been.

Orbit arbiting light was another Nub was all I could see, Anuncio and Anuncia Quag’s two backs...

So it was the one thing I could say
was more than one, unspun ambiguous witness, wound unecstatic stump... Antiphonal whimsy why they were so up and me reluctant, fist in my chest, remote, low brass’s consort, contrapuntal straw coughed up... The concept slid and we slid with it, weeping wrung one with sweat. Wizened voices’ rough concupiscence, toll and tolling’s escort, the chorusing horns’ condolences glum... We made a game of it, parallactic hub to ring’s rim, rung’s perimetric slough. The concept slid and came back and we came with it. Not to get one’s hopes up I warned and the horns also, also and as much and all the more
But my second body said otherwise. Visitor from planet Whiff, gnostic doorpeep, sniffed an imagined musk where there was none, lived in what let hope have its way… My second body put off by body one’s complaint said not so. The one thing I could say was more than one, my second head said, first head’s hard reflex not all there was of it, first head’s boast and re-buff
I was love's own distant lover, first body and first head I kept at bay. First body, one foot at ground level, walked with a hitch, the other foot underground...

Be sold on hope, it seemed I heard Sophia say. Why sold I wondered, quick to correct. Be souled on hope, Sophia said...

Rung was to rim as ring was to rut. My second body leapt and leapt on