

Limbo

I remember the golden sunlight
Beaming through the window
Of the chapel.

I remember being alone.

I remember how the sunlight danced
On the windowpane,
Illictly prismatic,
As it splayed across the pews.

Now, I watch it glitter
On contortions in the water,
Inviting, and more comfort
Than the wind

As it brushes my skin-
Bare-boned; chilled and waiting.
A vast expanse of torture
Looming behind me;

Dark halls and quiet screams.
Ghosts still hanging
By the nooses
They caught on-

The quiet, holy capture,
Carding wantonly
Through darkened combs-
Constricted souls

Hanged on the chains
Of their crosses.
In the river,
Waves reach out,

Inviting, like arms
Of faded souls
Lost before us.

Returned

To guide my graceful,
Aching bones
Through the undergrowth;
Grappling onto me,
Desperate to stop it-
Sympathetic,
But free of the burden
Rooting its sinners
To the rood cross
Like capital punishment.

But here is Limbo
Disguised as Purgatory
Where we are trapped,
Snapped and broken

Until we succumb to your truth-
Lies seeped under the holding gates,
Reviving burned scapulars
From wilted shoulders,
Instilling deep regret.
Beyond this residence-
Which prematurely abandoned,
Poses forest-fires and deep inferno

Of burned incendiary trees,
Gaslighted; shock treated
To ignition.

Here, by the riverbank
Where blessed lilies grow
Among white, bloodied roses,
I feel the sweet fragrance of Spring.

Mourned winter,
Dead under the fallen leaves,
Marks its presence in frigid water;
A stream to an ocean of stars.

As I plunge into bracing refuge,
Which contradicts alleged fire,
I climb the overpass
To the open gates of ether.

And there I linger by the balcony-
Overlooking terrene life,
As support for all the tortured souls
Trapped behind,

Awaiting the gates to wither,
And excavate freedom.
Until then, I linger here,
Phantom; menacing,
Watching, ill at ease,
As the passing days
Rust the demon gates
And hidebound guard.

And I will stay here;
A silent spectator
To all life's grievances,
Like a ghost still haunting your paradise.