

Four Poems

Bardia Sinaee

Ozu

Stewed peppers on a low table: they share their precise impressions of you
Why attend to the dream knowing it too will be written over
Your leaves are opposite: candour and austerity joined at a node
Beaming yolk of sun: the poults think the heat lamp is their mother
Dutifully the river pours itself into another, longing to be free
Which systems theory concerns the villagers sifting rubble and ash
They should keep it brief and just chant the most moving sutras
The sky is so blue, it's sad: the actor would like tears of her own
In stone agony a beloved feeds you fictions from the edge of the bed
The grain of millet stands for the young man's persistent character
Coiled snake or fan belt—splash! I make water by the road
What is it to come of age “downstream”? The free boat tours are fully booked
So long, painted seascapes: they've replaced the word *remission* with a bell
The question is does it end with a wedding or a funeral
The boy is inconsolable: there will be no trip to the car wash
Such outsized moments rise to the top like Brazil nuts
Balancing a tea tray: the middle child is born as night falls

Panelists

When the panelists appear
I picture my anger
as a wall

I've been told
this is how it works

Arguing
like pissing in a pool
feels good but
is hard to rationalize

Like many
in my cohort
I picture the future
as a red balloon

Does this point to
a Conservative victory
or a left coalition?

The retail heiress
and the guy who coined
“enhanced interrogation”
can't seem to agree
But the numbers show
most people prefer
the colour blue

which they associate
with tranquility
and cleanliness

Cadillac

It was the summer of the Denver Bikini
Every other guy was wearing the same floral shirt

Pete said “Chinese doctors
are right about the tongue stuff”

And it was true: people were paying \$25 a month
to talk to their appliances

Meanwhile centuries of empiricism
had culminated in a revolutionary procedure

involving fecal transplants
It was the summer of the fecal transplant

I had achieved homeostasis
and was progressing to the salivary stage

when I was forced to exit the train
because a guy was wearing the same shirt as me

It was the summer the government
sunk a bunch of money into flossing

The press reported on leaked documents
pertaining to a top-clearance operation

identified by the codename Eggbutt
The prime minister tried to explain

“If you hear a crashing sound
it’s probably just me in the other room”

but his mouth was full of granola
which he called “the Cadillac of food”

It was the summer of whippits and ketamine
Every other guy had a Goku tattoo

but only I could ride around on a cloud
because I was pure of heart

Scale

When one cartoon ant
says to the other

Brace yourself
for untold landscapes!

it's funny because
they're in a trash bin

Does the scale
of the universe

make the NBA finals
pointless?

A couple of guys get into it
outside the bar

Millions of people
have watched the video

of someone crinkling
cellophane on mic

Shrsssp
thinks the coral

swallowing egg-shaped
plastic flecks