

She ordered it to watch  
 While we made love. My crotch  
 Went icy, sweat rolled off my face.  
 She raged: "I should have kept the rest  
 And put it in your place!"

She pushed John's eyelids open  
 While she danced and mocked all men.  
 I swear his fire still burned  
 As if some ancient god returned  
 To validate his advocate.

And now this Christ is doing things  
 No mortal can. It's John, I know!  
 Back to punish me, to show  
 The world my weakness, prove that kings  
 Stand helpless under heaven.

Oh, pull yourself together!  
 With Jews there's always more afoot.  
 I must be careful whom I put  
 In prison. Why and whether  
 They brew disruptive weather.

Curse you woman, curse the troth  
 I pledged before your daughter  
 Like a drooling fool. Curse you both,  
 And best you heed my latest oath--  
 You two will serve me as you ought!

--Glenn Holloway