

DIVING WITH DOLPHINS AND DAVID

(A Rhyme Royal)

I watch our boat plow ripe Bahama blue,
collecting dolphin dorsals in our froth-skids.
Parenthesizing us, they arch on cue--
rollercoasting creatures just like kids
in circus midways. Unimpressed with grids
and charts, they trail confetti-glitter high,
and volley fragment diamonds in my eye.

The salty core of my aquatic dream:
To slither like a seal through liquid warm,
awaking dozing redfins. Their bright stream
will lead the way and fling a fiery storm
of living arrows, cross the scooping form
of undulating outriders, our pair--
Pagliacci faces grinning us a dare.

(cont.)

And now the dream is real and we are here;
increasing time each day the sea is home.
The flanking porpoise escort pushes near,
suspecting us for wetbacks, monochrome
against a beige and turquoise catacomb,
who crossed their borders with our rigged passports
and foreign marques to dabble in their sports.

And as our flippered presence weaves its part,
the framed montage is sudden silver-slashed
with black-masked angels practicing their dart
and pivot, coded greetings sequin-flashed.
Poor David can't perceive the treasures cached
around us in the ceaseless rocking swells.
He suffers bends outside his scholar's cells.

Oh, David, don't resist that deeper tug
of underwater wonders few have seen--
the manta like a genie's flying rug,
anemones against a muraled screen.
He names and sorts, ignoring damascene
chiaroscuro, shaded hue and light,
the songs in minor keys that I must write.

Our bubble wake plays whole notes on a staff
for ears attuned to each breath's epitaph.
High coral altars bless the tithes of sun
while poems flow from reeftop Helicon.