

(stanza break)

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 his 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.

Augh! 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!

--Glenna Holloway