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Carousel

A ghost waits with his bag of bones,
curled on the warm coral reef. This is all he has to cling to,
a remnant of a life he'll soon forget.

The cranberry dawn feathers over the ocean line
just before submitting to the oncoming chuff
of wind — the carousel swirling in violently.

He knows it's coming. He comprehends the gulls'
cawing rumors, the breathy moans of the dead
already caught in its winded drift. He is new to dying—

six days ago, he wrapped his bones in a satchel
and ducked in the stone alcoves that riddle the shore,
scrawling desperate tropes on the rocks.

And now, he waits; the bones, potential anchors,
thus he forget those tangible days, the body, the breath of sun
when dappled through the elbows of oak and pine.

Richard C. Williams



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The Only Cure

Of course, the symptoms are increasing.
Death is sure to follow that great body of dust
swirling nakedly up and over the hillside.
The only cure: open the blinds, the doors,
accept the hand of this inevitable stranger,
charm his unsubtle course with the flute
your girl will never play again. Do not question
your faith. There is no time for the re-kindling
of such things. God has taken his stance,
silent as always; you cannot concern yourself
with intangible nonsense. There is no time.
The stranger is here, his presence conveyed
in the ghastly song of cicadas, hands and face
pressed to a breathy pane. You could train
him to be gentle, line his belly with the feathers
of a peacock. You could teach him to love again
in these haunted hours, where your upcoming
loss will kill you slightly; he is the surrogate,
he is the only one, the only cure.

Richard C. Williams

Richard C Williams currently resides in New York City. He is editor of the poetry journal *Pierian Springs*, and a graphic artist. Some of his latest publications include: *Paumanok Review*, *Oyster Boy Review*, *Jones Ave*, *Adirondack Review*, *Pedestal Magazine*, *Eleven Bulls*, *Miller's Pond*, *Red River Review*, *Three Candles*, *Recursive Angel*, and *3rd Muse*, among others.