

Nudes On The Beach

by Gopikrishnan Kottoor (April 2015)

Wet to their pink tips the golden women
Sit staring at the tossing blue waves
Frothing spring-foam; their fine wet
Symmetry slumped upon twinkling ilmenite
Under the lengthening shadows of the phallus
Rocks. Bright nipples glint like rose-studs
As they sink them deeper into the crested sands
Among the shine of pebbles and coloured dead shells.
Upon dumped footprints
The nudes breathe
Letting the bubbling foam rush quietly deep in-
To the deepening twilight zones of love.
The nudes then gently rise,
Running down to the sea
Flaking away the tiny eels of water all over them,
As the dying sun strikes light
Beaded with smooth rosary of all the held-back tears
Of our living and longing by the crying seas;
Holding them lit, in dying orange hands
Awhile,

Beside the suddenly darkening waters.

Gopikrishnan Kottoor recently brought out his eleventh collection of poems, *Tell Me Neruda*. He'll shortly bring out his novel *Hill House*. He is working on his fourth play, *King Marthandavarma and Devasahayam*, set in the socio historic context, Kerala, South India, that focuses on the life and times of a Hindu nobleman executed by the king for his conversion to Christianity.

Kottoor's awards for poetry include the All India Poetry Society- British Council Special Prize for poetry. He won three more leading awards of the All India Poetry Society- British Council Poetry Competitions from 95 to 98. His poetry has appeared in *Bloodaxe*, *Fulcrum*, *Orbis*, *Ariel*, *Plaza*, *Toronto Review*, and other magazines. He edits the poetry ezine www.undergroundflowers.com, a poetry quarterly. His book of poems *Father, Wake in Passing*, translated into German, was read on invitation across universities in Europe.

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