

Two Poems

by [Susie Gharib](#) (July 2020)



Mountain Graveyard, Kurt Schwitters, 1919

Placation

When ancient man placated the gods,
human sacrifice was the ugly cult,
a children's or a women's lot.

To appease the ire of the sacred fire,
the Vestals with a sexual thirst
were soon interred beneath the earth.

Many slaves were buried alive
within their masters' funerary shrines
for servitude in the afterlife.

Messages on the entrails of beasts
were read as omens by altar priests,
appeasing gods with fragrant feasts.

To placate the froth of modern wrath,
strategic regions are bled in cuts

to drain in trickles its petrol-blood.

Afflictions

This modern age is all about infiltration
into compounds, websites, and one's cerebration,
into creeds,
a sunflower's seeds,
into some galaxy's circumnavigation.

This modern phase is ridden with arbitration,
a morbid caprice presiding over every nation,
a whimsicality that dictates one's fate,
a wayward impulse,
swaying balance and determination.

These modern creeds are congested with aberration,
an overwhelming obsession with genetic modification,
a sexual deviance entailing mortification,
a single parenthood,
heralding familial limitation.

«[Previous Article](#) [Table of Contents](#) [Next Article](#)»

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