O Reason Not [1]

October 17, 2016 Featured Poetry [2]
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Hybrid Poetry by Robert Perchan



What is the fat content of dreams? Calories in a carnal fantasy? Such flights hovered unbidden as the cowled monk sat in the scriptorium and the wooden bench wore a pair of tonsures on the crowns of his lean buttocks. Today he illuminates V for Voluptuary in his little book of Deadly Sins. Fat content of dreams. Calories in a carnal fantasy. Consider the Hooded Vulture, its bald pink head buried in the belly of a scavenged carcass, at one with its feast…

NOTES

1. *Necrosyrtes monachus* (Temminck, 1823) is the Linnaean binomen of the Hooded Vulture and means "a monk-like (bird) that drags away the dead."

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2. At a recent open-mic reading, a certain member of the audience graciously alerted the author to the fact that the Hooded Vulture's soft beak cannot penetrate the tough muscle tissue of the abdominal wall of its prey and will often seek access to the bowels through the rectum.
3. The asshole.
4. Nor do vultures themselves lack all sense of humor when it comes to their feeding habits, or even a penchant for giddy wordplay, to wit:

So this Vulture is flying from New York to L.A.
The girl at the check-in counter affixes the proper LAX destination tags to the Vulture's luggage.
What's that, says the girl, pointing to the rotting chunk of gazelle hindquarters tucked underneath the Vulture's wing.
Oh, that, says the Vulture. That's carrion.

Art Information

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Robert Perchan's poetry chapbooks are *Mythic Instinct Afternoon* (2005 Poetry West Prize) and *Overdressed to Kill* (Backwaters Press, 2005 Weldon Kees Award). His collection *Fluid in Darkness, Frozen in Light* won the 1999 Pearl Poetry Prize (Pearl Editions, 2000). His avant-la-lettre flash novel *Perchan's Chorea: Eros and Exile* (Watermark Press, 1991) was translated into French and published in 2002.

In 2007, his short-short story "The Neoplastic Surgeon" won the online *Entelechy: Mind and Culture* Bio-fiction Prize. He currently resides in Pusan, South Korea.

You can see some of his stuff on Robert Perchan's website [5].

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