## Marble Arch "The Slave"

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In a byzantine harem Where, seeking paradise, Id disguised myself as a dog, A slave told me:

Me, Id like heavy pearls
Enamelled black pearls
To be dumb, and almost deaf
So that youd soothe me with words
Words which resemble the sea
Words that one sees through
Words of bitterness and love
Tender words, severe words

Me, Id like crowded rooms Where stretched out naked on all fours Encircled by dogs and chains Tasting mysterious liquors

Drinks of life and drinks of death Cups filled to the brim I place my moist and eager lips On the kneeling stools therein

Me Id like a black slave With the white teeth, strong and cruel Whod split my shackles wide And wholl take me to the sky

In the damp languor of evening Me all white, and he all black Hed bite my body, sliding With a serpent slow...attack

Me, Id like to be a young woman Behind glass and iron bars As pleasure takes my every breath Until sleep, until death

Beneath my purple-blue eyelids You know, I have only one thought To be a woman, yes, its true To be a real woman

God.....please...please

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