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Dapithapon Lake

Allan Popa

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Someone breaks into brittle laughter.
When I look up the sky
Stars graze my forehead;
Entire constellations seem
Concerned with our modest affairs,
Exploring reasons
To keep expanding the universe.
I hear my name called—
My turn to wash the dishes.

(Rogongon, Iligan
2000)

ALLAN POPA

Dapithapon

Mula sa pahinang binabasa
Tumingala ako at pinagmasdan ang daloy
Ng mga paniki mula sa yungib.

Kasunod nilang umahon
Ang mga minerong nakayuko sa paglakad
Na waring kay bigat ng gumagabay na liwanag.

Nang balikan ko ang tula sa aking kandungan,
Mariing kumapit sa papel ang mga titik
Na nanganganib mahulog sa bitak
Sa gitna ng aklat.

Sinalat ko ang isang munting salita
Upang tumatag pansamantala sa pagkalula.
Sa sandaling iyon, waring maikukuyom ko sa palad
Ang lahat ng naghihintay na maunawaan.

Lake

No curses in the air: all the dead
have been buried. A boy pauses

and looks back at his muddied wake.
He doesn't know what he's been missing.

He plunges deep into the water to hear
himself better. Clouds haven't moved

for days. Now the vigilant villagers
look past the bare trees lining the lake

as though they can see beyond the clear-
cut alphabet of a forgotten language.

How to mend the scream on the face
of the water. How to make *that* sound.

SAM PRUDENTE

Rebolusyon ang Magsulat sa Wika

Pakikibaka
Ang pagsasanay sa wika
Bawat pamagat, tuldok, at letrang naisusulat
Ay nilalaman ng mga salitang dumudulas sa dila
nanunuyo sa papel.

Kapit-bisig
Ang mga Musa sa pakikibakang ito
Pag-ibig sa kapwa, dula, tula,
bawat letrang maisusulat
Ay pagmamahal rin sa Bayan
at sa makabagong rebolusyon—walang dugo
Ang hinayaang pumatak sa lupa.