

Owl in Stone



by Rogan Wolf



Owl in Stone

Sweet owl
in capturing you
I cheat us both
of chance sightings

those shared catchings
of breath. I wake to you each morning
hunching your shoulders,
shielding your absolute wild

with grey curtains.
Dorothy Love shaped your nature
from stone. Seeing you
it is I who take wing.

Owl's Origins



Did Dorothy Love
forsee the owl
beneath the chisel

in his covert of grey wings ?
Or did she work
the flat surfaces

knowing nothing
seeing nothing -
that being *her* achievement,

the rest
owl ?
who began like a cell,

an arrival so slight
he seemed more chimera
than fact. Fact accumulating

slowly slowly
stone births
owl.



Owl the Anchorite

Hunched in the garden
boxed in stone
Owl the anchorite

dreams of glory
alone
all night.

Those eyes
like stars
hold memories
too old for capture.

Owl anchorite
keeps station
all night.



Owl On Duty

He stands on guard
eyes front

whatever we tourists
get up to.

The garden's his sentry box.
But look at those huge claws

gripping stone.

Feel in that cold shoulder

his frenzy

barely withheld.



Totem

Owl glowers
under the apple tree

Cat rushes
to sit on Owl's head

Owl glowers
Cat blinks

Athene glowers
Bastet blinks

Tree shatters.



*Athene was a goddess of ancient Greece, daughter of Zeus. Her symbol : the owl.
Bastet was a goddess of ancient Egypt, daughter of Ra. Her symbol : the cat.*

Owl's New Medium



Owl has filled
vast spaces in his time
with a voice
that made them cathedrals

but here silence is the medium
that occupies him.

The great talons gripe
a stray, precarious,
wavery foothold
only he can delineate.

There's no flight now
no peal of bells.

Owl Axis

Mornings,
world news

tracing convulsion,
daily

mortifying anew.
Mornings,

owl
under the apple tree,

same exactly
as yesterday –

my still centre
my friend.



But when sleep
absents me

I beg the owl
spread out

launch forth
break clear.

Let him exult
in his free estate.

Let him give voice
from a reach of grandeur.

Wings of white silence
and exact return.

Rogan Wolf
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