

Haibun for Kerouac N° 1*

DARKEST NIGHT ON THE COLUMBIA CAMPUS

corner Broadway and 116th
on the Barnard sidewalk,
no street-lamps working—
a dim mist of rains—
shadows passing—
by my peanuts I stand waiting—
warm April night—
mystery of the West End Bar,
the corpus of the Hudson,
Edna in a Russian darkness over the campus—
I'm almost afraid of marauders in this gloom,

Manhattan at night...

Delirium tremens...

Bowery Beat.

look around—
Timeless the world waits—
...along a night's river,
where in the vastness of structures
I've been climbing around in
truancies so elastic
that the river changes to a sea,...

Labyrinth of angst.

Scrolls of type left to guide you
back from Minotaur.

O south City of my Dreams—
and Shore of Oceans—
my throat aches
to find my way back
to the place where I am mourned
and I cant even remember any more
where that is—

Guanabo Beach
Santa María del Mar...
Dead seaweed on sand.

...the marble insides of spectral hotels,...
...events and loneliness
in a maze of lost corridors
of the dark mind's house—...
...at each level the iron door is locked,...
—I'm trapped in the steel
& maniacal contrivance of the city—

Prison of Sangsara...
whirling rack of birth and death.
No Exit to Harlem.

...oblivion, beyond the wood—
...in olden
 incarnations i the wood?
 i the immaterial
 meadow of this world?

* All verses in Calibri font are by ©Pascual Delgado February 3rd 2016. All texts in Bell MT font are by Jack Kerouac from *Book of Dreams*, City Lights Books (1961) Pages 44, 67, 75, 109, 114, 154 and 173.