



Satyr Dreams *

*Dreams, With eyes wide closed
The fleeting shadow play focus
in shimmering that mocks
the mind, formless velvet art
Issue from no temples,
return to the time before
No heavenly power sends them –
your name and baptism,
Each man creates his own,
before the grammar school
of certified perception,
 When prostrate limbs grow heavy
before first desire: And the play
of the mind is unchecked,
Alicia's long blond braid
The mind enacts in darkness
nightmarish fantasies of suckling
The dramas of daylight.
androgynous cyborg clones.*

*The shatterer of cities in war,
Return to the days of innocence and fear
Who burns unfortunate towns, before
your father's agony Sees flying spears,
broken ranks, before diaspora before
The death of kings, luminous snowstorms
Plains awash with spilt blood.
when friends and lovers would*

be loyal forever
The barrister pleads again
in nightmare, and the world could change
Sees the twelve tables, the court,
in a whirlwind of banners
and conga lines *The guarded bench.*
before corporate and tribal
betrayals
The miser salts away his money
before the end of history
To find his gold
dug up.

The hunter flushes the woodland with his hounds.
and as the last man you sink
The sailor dreams he is doomed,
into Her perfect symmetrical
Drags out of the sea
the upturned poop
fathomless and fragrant
to cling to...

And the hound
in his slumbers embroidered
Bays at the hare's tracks
obsidian
sea.

* Poem by © Pascual Delgado, written on February 2003. Last revision: August 1st 2023. Image is the illustration by Norman Lindsay for the cover of *The Complete Works of Gaius Petronius* (1944). Passages in italics are all quotes from Fragment XXX, Gaius Petronius' *Satyricon Liber*, translated by John Sullivan.