

3.

The present self is very bold  
 A being with a fearless shadow  
 Its endless pursuit of a spiritual hold  
 Rips through the gloom of the  
 Immense structures of the years,  
 Slices the subterranean tombs  
 The cathedrals of the weeping bones  
 And labelled the spectrum of sombre  
 Still life  
 Whispering in hushed refrain  
 The evanescent dreams of the stubborn gods:  
 Now we live with the movements  
 Of eternity's heavenly hymns  
 Replete with thankful prayers  
 To the Divine Shepherd of all times  
 And like meek lambs we follow Him  
 For He leads us to a pasture forever green.  
 And this is but an obvious manifestation  
 Of the triumph of the Holy Cross  
 This is but an obvious manifestation  
 Of the triumph of the Holy Cross!



## Good Friday

by ricardo de la riva

on the brink of despair  
my life hangs limp.

alone,  
alone with the beating of  
my heart  
i bleed:  
loneliness gnaws at my  
mangled existence.

frantic  
i search for god!

in vain.

for his face  
is hidden from me.

to the man at my left  
i turn my head,  
"remember me,"  
my crushed lips utter in plea.

he replies:  
"come,  
stay with me in paradise."

## The Jealous Pearl

by c. y. enge

before the early courts did once proclaim  
across the calm without a single lane  
to give what chanced-upon a christian name  
beyond the calm commerce was not profane:  
though it was without a heavenly name:

the age was golden as the natural rains  
and lovely the living and the dying  
abed hills of rock and grass, surviving  
clinging as shell to pearl with love and hate  
clinging in jealous guard o'er heaven's gate  
though heaven was where then a nameless state.

the proud beneficiaries of that age  
who have brightened from the long bonded cage  
long since in curious alien wonder gazed  
at galleons emerging to solicit rage  
have learned from philip to see without haze.

it could have been a day of great rejoice  
with less foreplay of many a great noise  
to heal wounded continent beyond  
physical boundaries of chinese land:  
such task began in fifteen-twenty-one

the mustard did grow in fifteen-sixty-five  
four and forty years of struggle and flight  
till today from galilee seed to tree  
of enduring oak—foe to heresy—  
there is no nobler end to nobler intent  
an edenward quest without fiscal end.

god is unprecedented who is wise  
a shiver of wind, in various device  
of sea-life like fish, and land-wealth like rice

a symbol in fifteen-sixty-eight  
of fruit no more in silence enjoyed  
when isabel—niece of datu lupaz  
with legaspi's man sacramental love  
enjoying earth in the domain of god

the abolition of limasawa  
where before the mass of valderama  
this and where more in ignorant content  
come in conscious strife sans conscious contempt

who has ever hoped is hoped still for man  
neither he nor his laws could prevent  
the prime reason of thing, the evely plan  
nor cause such a jealous cause to be rent.

commerce in god's oriental marketplace  
beams busy with his unseen effectual face  
in ecumenic earthly phase it seems  
a realization of catholic dreams  
theirs and ours, all the lovely jealous pearls  
have seen, held the hour in unison — dear.