

**issue 14**

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[ a r k h a i ]  
**Αρχαί**

## entranced

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*Ana Elsner*

the Trance came  
by smoke  
by stroke

with battened knees and elbows  
thrown akimbo  
on the kelp bed

nirvana begins at her thigh  
stretched across my keel  
forged with iron

pushing the breaking waves into her

muscles contract in spasms  
then release a wake  
of  
blurry  
bliss  
amidships

the spilled seed  
now oily  
on the stilled waters

my latitude and longitude  
aligned  
with  
her soft  
Northern Lights

trancelike

I drift

through

her

## find me

Ana Elsner

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Find me in the Marrow of Morning,  
re-trace the centipede's trail  
on scented papyrus,  
a gift from Osiris,  
Keeper of mourning and me.

Will you not gild sorrow's veil  
with nimble needle  
threaded with fleece  
that I plucked  
from the winged ram of Aries  
for I my immortal coverlet  
rhymed in the Argonauts' tale.

In my mirror  
write your yearning  
and I will breathe life  
in the aching reflection of you.

Don't fear! Don't fear!  
Don't summon the tear

over the subterfuge  
of godless angels.

Even Persephone  
dare not endanger  
or snuff out our flame.

Flint of stone  
sparked on bone,  
crimson stylings,

this connubial bonfire  
set eternally blazing  
in the starburst  
of my thrice-spoken name.