

Daren KAMALI

Poems

The Return

The giant knew
his soul mate was too good
to roam the underworld forever
Warned three times
she held on for dear life
to his tentacles
like many before
never wanting to let go

The giant felt tricked
into sacrificing
his lust for freedom
It was the baby shark
that filled the *va*
between his lust and *lomani*
He had no choice
but to commit
despite his zest for adventure

He wrapped his whale tooth
in *masi* cloth
folding his glow and shark
in fine mat
tucked them neatly
in the corners of his vision

and swam through currents
and time
into her world
landing in a place
he thought was forever

He fell in love
with an everlasting fantasy

She made him strong
he let her shine
before the invader of dreams
arrived

Dark angels pulled on his conscience
past demons grabbed
the mat from under him
causing him to fall back
into the darkness
filled with all kinds of possibilities
Back to a place he thought
never existed

Notes:

va – space
lomani - love
masi - Fijian bark cloth

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Mo'o

Back down:

Ivei qo?

Where to from here?

She brought him this far
then flies away without warning

Teuthis is left trapped
in a man's body
to roam the earth
man out of squid
trying to find his feet
aimlessly searching
for a way back
down to his ocean cave

Stuck in Burotukula:

He works on a copra plantation
not far from Levuka i daku
craving for his ocean home
He desperately searches
for a way
back

The Third world:

From sea to mother earth
to the stars up above
A man spawned
from a giant sea creature

had no choice but to
trade his tentacles for wings
in order to
connect the underwater world
to the islands and the heavens
creating a gateway to
the sun
He continues his crusade
for true love
longing for his lover to return
for his lost to be found
He has to find
a way back
to her heart

The way back
is too slippery
especially at night
Imagine a dark
cold and lonely dungeon
at the bottom
of the deep sea
this is where
he used to reside

Teuthis sits under a Kavika tree
staring at his reflection
in Mo'os pond
decorated with yellow leaves
her image in his eyes
half lizard, half woman

predicts his return
to the hidden atoll
deep in the Lauan archipelago

Slender island maidens
red feathers in their hair
hibiscus in their mouths
naked and curvaceous
long black locks
frangipani flower in their left ear
meaning they are untaken
they are the keepers of Burotukula
celebrating Teuthis' arrival
onto their mysterious shore
beautiful and free
singing sweet island melodies
gifting him new wings
made of red feathers
crafted by their masculine femininity
designed to fly with hurricane birds
to tell tales of his evolution
His red wings
takes him back down
into the depths below
following an echo
chanted by both
Kuita and Teuthis

Yellow lilies afloat
head of Mo'o
The mighty lizard goddess

rises up from the mist
greeting a stranger as a friend
unfolds myths
calls him on board
ready for the underwater flight
leading him home to his cave
to bid his Glow farewell
He returns to a free spirit
walks down streets of cobble stone
explores foreign pathways
strange lands
greeting hybrid creatures
from all over the seven seas
a manifestor of dreams
evolving into a giant
bigger than himself
His mission
to win back his lost lover
stretch his wings wide
and rise from his fall from Grace
His heart held captive
in the deep trenches
of her permission

The glow and the dark
were once inseparable
before he messed up
and was banished
from their sanctuary
a loner left to swim alone
in a whirlpool of brokenness

He sank to the bottom
of her cold heart
where he was left frozen

With an ambitious life ahead
she looked back
and turned into salt water
flooding his dreams
with hopelessness

He had no choice
but to fly away
to a cold corner
of the universe
where he created
his own myths and legends

NOTES:

Ivei qo? --Fijian
Burotukula --underworld Fiji
Levuka i daku --Fiji
Kavika tree -- Malayan apple tree
Mo'os-- lizards
Lauan --the Fijian archipelago
Kuita and *Teuthis* --squid and man

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Untitled

If you are looking for Teuthis
He is down by the river
soaking his hurt and bruised ego
in cold water

He doesn't want anyone to know
he is broken
or to see him cry

If you want to see a grown man
shed tears
be sure to creep up quietly
and hide behind a tree
be careful he doesn't see you
else he turn you into a rock
to be used by the villagers
in the lovo pit

NOTES:

lovo pit - Fijian earth oven

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Masi Maiden

Masi patterns painted
on her naked breasts
Eyes filled with
bright lights
filling his visions of her
of them
bringing out the ocean in him
emotion of lost love

He is woken by
stitches of shattered dreams
stitched by bloody hands

Sacred lips calls to
the gods of Oceania
leading her bare feet
to walk on white hot rocks
like the people of Beqa Island
without melting her flesh
They blessed her
with wings of the Manteress
to fly through
the depths of Pasifika
leaving the giant longing
for her return

The gods sentenced Teuthis to Burotu
to uncover the lover in him
and rediscover the writer within

He wrote his life into existence
without a mention of his true love

NOTES:

Beqa Island – Fiji

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Ocean Fairies

The Ocean Fairies dived down
and pulled the giant
out of his bottomless pit
reinventing him

They cut his tentacles
replaced them with
red feathered wings
from the underworld
cleared up his dark state of mind

They knew
he was the Real Evolutionary
Manuvuka Damudamu
Prepared him for his freedom flight

following the trails of his dreams
in search of his Glow
scattered among sparks in the sky
her light camouflaged by the stars

He finds her unwilling to return
so he wanders back to earth
alone

To his seeds
they comfort him
keeping his wounded heart warm
on a cold winters night

He lives to fly another day

NOTES:

Manuvuka Damudamu --Red Bird

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Giant Love

The giant lost his heart
without being heartless

Lost his mind
but kept his sanity

Lost love
but gained life

and
he lived forever
