

POEM

by

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*Self-Portrait as Autopsy*

SUBJECT: Caucasian female seasoned with Mediterranean salt.

AGE: Affinity for the Renaissance, La Belle Époque, and the Summer of Love.

HEIGHT: Tall as Cassiopeia

EYES: Filled with the searching gaze of reason.

HAIR: Shades of flowering tobacco.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Strawberry birthmark, shape of home.

BRAIN: Weight: 3 ounces. Heavier when filled with the heft of guilt.

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Occipital Lobe: Evidence of Picasso's observation: we see one thing at a time, a nose, an eye, vs. the entire visage. Might explain why subject mistook the countenance of strangers for those of lost loved ones—bequeathing the departed with kindness.

\*Note: Subject favored spirituality over religion though frontal lobe reveals a conscience of the Catholic ilk.

HEART: Typical 10 ounces. Surface: fossil hard. Core: maudlin. Scars date back to childhood, consistent with wounds that open as evening primrose flowers for the moon.

SOUL: Poet/ physician Duncan MacDougall who weighed bodies immediately before and after death, says 21 grams. Considering the soul's definition: one's moral compass of identity, subject's wavered, especially when no one was looking.

FLESH: Skin, thin as any declaration on parchment.

FINDINGS: a) Multiple contusions of the heart.  
b) Brain fatigue from attempting to hold onto reason.

CONCLUSION: In an effort to subvert emotion through logic, subject traversed the brain like an ant colony seeking cracks in the sidewalk. Surface labyrinth, resulting from subject's effort to sow more desirable paths, proved no match for primal grooves which remained very much intact. Heart remained warm.