

Helen Redacted

by Quin de la Mer

A found poem from
Doolittle, Hilda. *Helen in Egypt*. New York, NY: New Directions Books, 1961.

Part 1

(She speaks)

I hear [redacted] voices
[redacted] no veil between [redacted]
[redacted] space [redacted]

[redacted] potion [redacted] not poison
[redacted] not [redacted] forgetfulness
but [redacted] memory

some said [redacted] from [redacted]
[redacted] the dart [redacted] was [redacted]
[redacted] Love's arrow

[redacted] honoured
[redacted] host
[redacted] iron casement

They met in the dark

he will come the moment she wants

her treasure

the transcendental material meaning in eternity

timeless, but in time "few were the words said."

few were the words [redacted] said
[redacted] shipwrecked [redacted] lost [redacted]
[redacted] to view [redacted] stars

translating time, into timeless-time ancient time
She knows we judge
death-symbol life-symbol mother

his fingers
let me let me
let me be lost.....

I under his
forever Star in the night

let me draw him
alone the wandering star

swaying before
the season
far – from –

heart-break unappeasable
ache, burning sinews
he remembers

Immortality
made him Mortal

brave?

unearned merit –
a magnet drew
ore from

gold
Death
War

a swirl
a swarm, an infinite number
one whole, one cluster

a Galaxy

numberless
seem one but many

my hand
the blind
invisible curve

I see a mist
a fountain

that desert; we died
you spoke my name
you called me –

(He speaks)

– enough –
afraid of
place

where
I saw her
as the wind
winter

I saw her
through transparent folds

her wrist her throat
long ago
in the beginning

She is stronger
stronger than Fate

She
I felt
return

Her face
I remember
Power

██████████ I had lost
██████████ the balance
██████████ it swayed, till ██████████
██████████ the weight of ██████████
██████████ Destiny
██████████
you ██████████ work ██████████ your way
into the innermost ██████████
██████████ secret escape ██████████
██████████
██████████ the dart ██████████
██████████ I ██████████ know ██████████ was Love's arrow

██████████
██████████ *Phoenix* *the eternal* ██████████
██████████
██████████ *It is* *Aphrodite* ██████████
██████████

██████████ Phoenix
██████████ ancient ██████████
██████████
██████████ forever
██████████
██████████ the name of Love
██████████
██████████
██████████ one indestructible name
██████████
██████████
██████████ has withstood
the rancor of time ██████████ of hate
██████████
a ██████████ spiral-shell ██████████
██████████ more ancient
than ██████████
██████████ the ██████████ seas

beyond [redacted] and life
[redacted] gates

is magic [redacted]
[redacted] mystery [redacted]
whispering [redacted] secrets [redacted]

[redacted] rapture [redacted]
[redacted]
and wind and hail

rain, sleet and [redacted] snow
[redacted] lifts and falls
conceals, reveals

[redacted] the [redacted] veil [redacted]
[redacted] – come home.

Part 2

(He speaks)

You died [redacted]
[redacted] here
[redacted]

[redacted] a web [redacted] a butterfly
they call you [redacted]
[redacted] the trees

[redacted] lightning [redacted] skies
but waiting [redacted] to rise
why [redacted] do you [redacted] return?

[redacted] the fragrance
of pine-cones [redacted] incense
[redacted] infinite corridors

the lantern [redacted]
[redacted] you recall
[redacted] white fire [redacted] unnumbered stars

[redacted] that [redacted]
burn [redacted] in a [redacted] jar
where you [redacted]

[redacted] return
[redacted]
[redacted] we [redacted] together

[redacted]
[redacted] the thousand spears
we [redacted] compel the Fates

[redacted] the mysteries [redacted]
[redacted] re-weave [redacted]

remember
a pearl a cup and
she is a butterfly
with half-dried wings

lying here
you move

the folds
quietly
as the snow

outside I find
the threshold
is a snow-palace

the ember glow
the heart of snow
I drifted here

blown by
sorrow

you hear
a voice within
let it speak

magic
inherited
must be

the way out, the way back,
the way home.

Moon-goddess
change shape

the sphere
remote, white, near

here
a shell

its orbit
the white
hollow

(She speaks)

a-drift
at rest
let me stay

Death
immaculate
security

find me
reflect re-live

true
the memory the molten ember
Dark Absolute

Death
embraced

his face
dark clear

drawn from fire
beaten it grows
cold colder

the polar-star

his eyes
dark caves

the sheen of the sea

his hands

powerful

his prey
my throat that day

his fingers
had strength
let me go let me forget

hate love
nothingness nothingness
ever widening flight...

go
remember

time moon-shape
time star-circles
time a pebble

bones stones counters
always another

with wild wings
bring the Hyperboreans to me

encompass the infinite
in the crystal
in my thought

aye
sphere to sphere
the long way

██████████ his task
██████████ twelve labours
██ twelve aeons ████████ twelve years

to me ██████████ still
██████████
██████████ small

████████████████████
I wore ██████████
██████████ a jewel

Part 3

[redacted] *all myth*
[redacted] *one reality*
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] the pearls on a string

[redacted]
[redacted] she was a lure, a light

[redacted] an intimate flame, a secret
[redacted]
[redacted] the innermost

[redacted] smouldering flame
[redacted]

[redacted] broken [redacted]
[redacted] before
remembering [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] we are One

[redacted] forever [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] fate [redacted]
[redacted] brought us together
[redacted]

[redacted] unwavering [redacted]
[redacted] in the [redacted] roar

one
name
a breath

stretched
numb with memory

we spoke
the absolute spark

the Star
desire

a thousand-thousand
nights

of Love
of Death

the Phoenix

the mystery

one
infinite

rhythm
of the heart