

Squares

(continued)

The visual nailing of a nightmare.
Yannis Ritsos

1. *The message returns to me in a battle, not a boat.*
2. *Plastic bombshells. Visualise whirled peas.*
3. *Day's dappled futility, finally disappearing in black out the corners of an eye-blink.*
4. *Reluctant lemmings.*
5. *Too late, the leak is now a lake.*
6. *Winter-splinter. Immune moon.*
7. *Kill your darling dahlias. Cull every evil word.*
8. *Chameleon morphing in and out of sight, I turn myself outside-in.*
9. *Access to excess. The fridge, the box, the mall.*
10. *A bird might fly head-first, but never from the head. Unless, of course, it's a cockatoo.*
11. *Bus-stop sub-plots.*
12. *To grind little worlds in a mortar and pestle. Littered words on the tip of my tongue.*
13. *Headlights like leftover sunbeams, hemming in the daze.*

14. *All torque and no talk. The draught sent us all adrift.*
15. *Afraid, it seems she belies her belief with frayed seams.*
16. *Two dark insects: a cockroach and mosquito. Dark to inspect.*
17. *Anxiety is the dizziness of democracy.*
18. *For crying out loud! The cloud is allowed to pull a face, why can't I?*
19. *Morass of mores. The masses in molasses.*
20. *The ship lost its sense of infinity, playing with the shark fins.*
21. *Every moment, murmuring with memory.*
22. *Without the weight of light, the mirror saw itself in the sleeping boy.*
23. *The presentation and the presence: the notes and the tones.*
24. *Her lips. An eclipse.*
25. *Pause. With poise, a dingo will always beat a drongo at bingo. Paws down.*
26. *Sand dunes swap places to the seismic sound of their own applause.*
27. *Mothered, she muttered something about nothing, or mutton.*
28. *Inchoate in a coat two sizes too big.*
29. *Sometimes, I can shift a red-hot tectonic plate with my pinky.*
30. *Jolt. Jet-black. Warheads made by jacklegs.*
31. *Something sickening in the psyche.*
32. *As with water from a broken glass following the cracks, so does blood, only not as fast.*
33. *Show me the azure sea. Assure me.*

34. *The smile of a dragon. The iris of an eagle.*
35. *Curly hair. Churlish man. Cherish the solitude.*
36. *Lunch with a whore at noon. Go on, launch that horde of blue moons.*
37. *Un-timed time. Pent-up in grey, one-floor penitentiaries.*
38. *Asleep, my dreams collude. Awake, my dreams collide.*
39. *We ensconced ourselves in monsters.*
40. *Nebula. Rust. Who spawned such sprawl?*
41. *The distinction, that lead is lead, is a distraction leading to destruction.
Oils just ain't oils.*
42. *Skerrick of doubt. Skeleton in the drought.*
43. *On Broadway, the ways of the broad. Now that I know, she is stripped of
mystique.*
44. *He loved and lost not being loved.*
45. *Cyst in the caucus. Cause? A caustic cast. Cost?*
46. *Each of us in time we turn.*
47. *Seagulls swirling in the lighthouse.*
48. *After years, deep into an aeon, I weep neon tears.*
49. *Buttoned-up bats in the box. The elusion of illumination. The illusion of
elucidation.*
50. *To fiddle with the foetal could be fatal.*
51. *Awkward orchid.*
52. *Regret, for what we have and haven't done, we'll never neglect.*

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53. *As with bees, all things cool off and come to a spinning stop.*
54. *Revolve, revolve, and never resolve!*
55. *Fountains in the mountain of flames.*
56. *Strangers in a strange land, we broke the rules until they broke.*
57. *Circuit of desire. You came around.*
58. *The myriad pains of glass.*
59. *Green after clean rain, the sun returns to cinder.*
60. *Burnt on the wall: a shadow. Raw shock.*
61. *To stand still at the bottom of a maelstrom. The visual unveiling of a nightmare.*
62. *In the sky, you see it too, an eternity of scars.*
63. *I toiled with the sea. The sea toyed with me.*
64. *The inevitable repetition of the ineffable.*

Toby Fitch