

Telamon and Caryatid

The orderly love of Telamon and Caryatid
Inspires no tears, no adolescent sigh,
No lyric, no drama, no song, no gorgeous
Tragedy in sceptred pall come sweeping by
to melt our hearts;

Watch instead, take note, observe days,
And months, and times, and years,
Occasions of ordinary love from cornice
To base, his the bare pectoral bulge—
Weight of the world, weight of the world—
Hers the memory of a basket full of reeds
Balanced in quiet careful circles of dance
on the tablet of her head;

The same for us all, to honor the solid
Bodies we wake beside, the common
Cup of morning tea, the kitchen table,
the kiss on the cheek;

Goatsinger, poet, nibbler of solemn griefs,
Cast about now for the new right words,
Etch your voice with this statuary grace.



ABOUT J. D. SCHRAFFENBERGER

J. D. Schraffenberger is the associate editor of the *North American Review* and an assistant professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of the book of poems *Saint Joe's Passion* (Etruscan), and his other work has appeared in *Best Creative Nonfiction*, *Brevity*, *Mid-American Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Poetry East*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere.

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