

DAN ENCARNACION

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Businessman

*He didn't lack for food.*

Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis

below the sleek façade of the international  
terminal of the international airport under  
the suffusing afternoon sun on a concrete  
platform bench flat on his back briefcase  
pillowing his head that fat mid-lifed man  
might be dead and yet no his well-suited

abdomen expands quivers falls unrhythmic

rhythm of restive rest beds the breeze on  
his shut quiet eyes corrals the sun in his  
loosened mouth rolls his tongue around  
the engulfinating warmth sharp distended  
rays fill his belly with the vibrant buzz of  
unremembered late summer bees

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## ABOUT DAN ENCARNACION

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Dan Encarnacion lives in Portland, Oregon. He has previously been published in *MARGIE*, *Berkeley Poetry Review*, *Eleven Eleven*, and *Upstairs at Duroc*. His poem "Aposiopesis" was nominated for the 2014 Pushcart Prize.

A bibliographic note:

The epigraph for "Businessman" is from *Quincas Borba* by Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis. Translated by Gregory Rabassa. Oxford University Press (1998), p. 82.

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