

MARK A. FISHER

I know more about death

than those Egyptians who have been shut up
in pyramids alone with him for a thousand years
I heard Death, I felt him, he was in the garden,
an old Dutch garden, very prim, very silent,
his gray misty face was at the window
he was smiling at me such a melancholy, kind smile
although his face was strange enough
I did not feel a bit afraid,
I spoke to him and he always answered,
speaking in a dreamy sort of voice
Death seems to me such a little withered,
contemptible figure, but there never
was an angel more innocent,
no, nor more sweet
for ever jealous of Love

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“I know more about death” was created from *Death, the Knight, and the Lady* (1897) by H. De Vere Stacpoole. About the poem and the process of composing it, Mark A. Fisher writes:

I started skimming the book, and when I found phrases that seemed particularly interesting I made a note. Long before I reached the end of the book I found a theme developing. Perhaps unsurprisingly given the title, images related to death seemed to predominate. Once that became apparent, lines were gathered together, sometimes reordered from where they fell in the book and sometimes enjambed together, and the poem flowed into something that was in a sense haunting in a way different than the original book.

Mark A. Fisher is the author of *drifter* (2015), *hour of lead* (San Gabriel Valley Poetry 2017), and *rain and other fairy tales* (Four Feathers Press 2020). His work has also appeared in *A Sharp Piece of Awesome*, *Altadena Poetry Review*, *Young Ravens Literary Review*, *Silver Blade*, *Southern Indiana Review*, and elsewhere. He lives in Tehachapi, California.

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