



(untitled)

2003 chapbook
Vadin Bystritski

Down in the Dirt
Scars Publications

it's been an
eighteen hour surgery
now for a heart
I have a flower

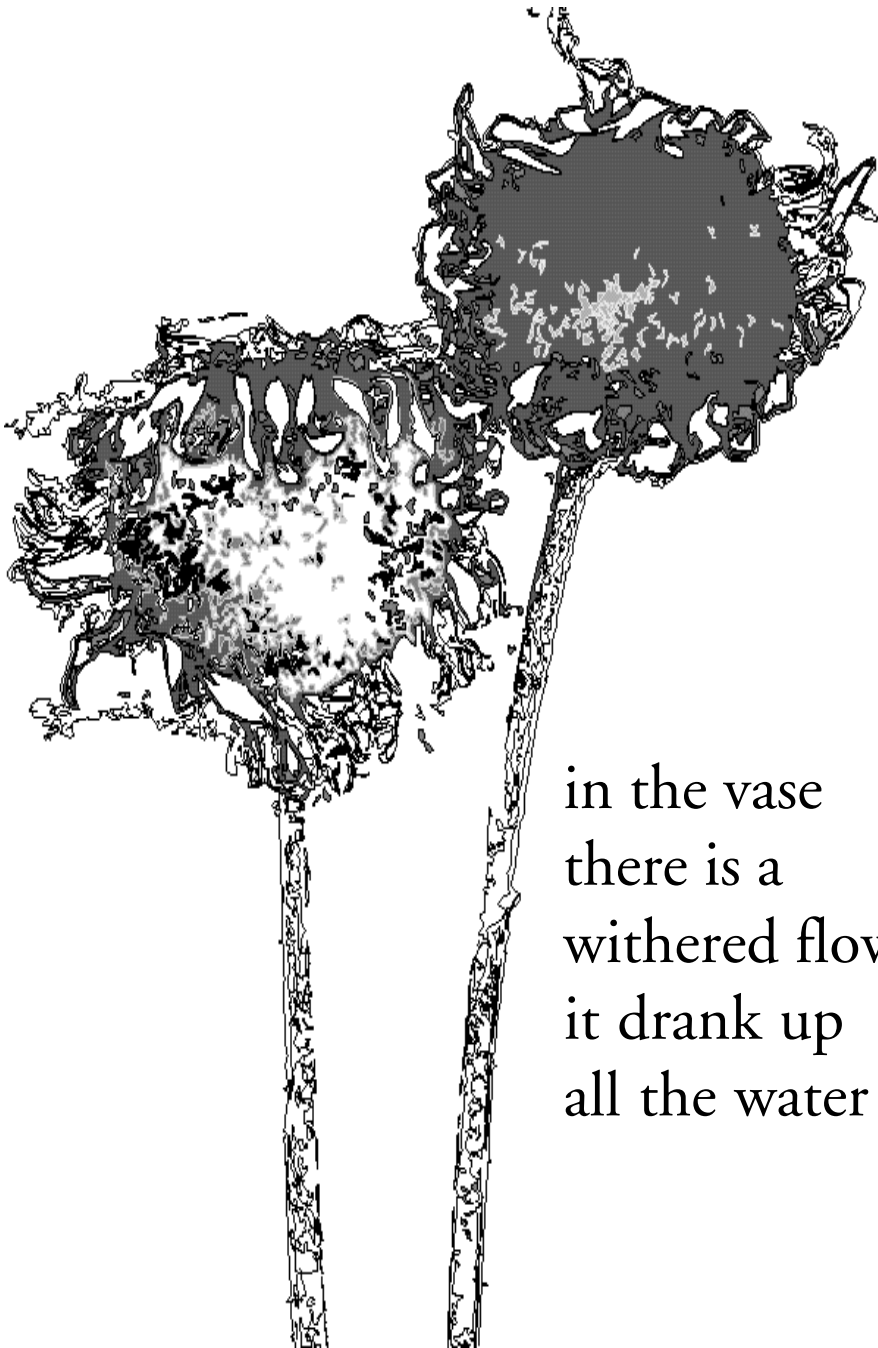


taking off
my clothes
I think about you
a tear
is running down
who knows where
lost
in the folds

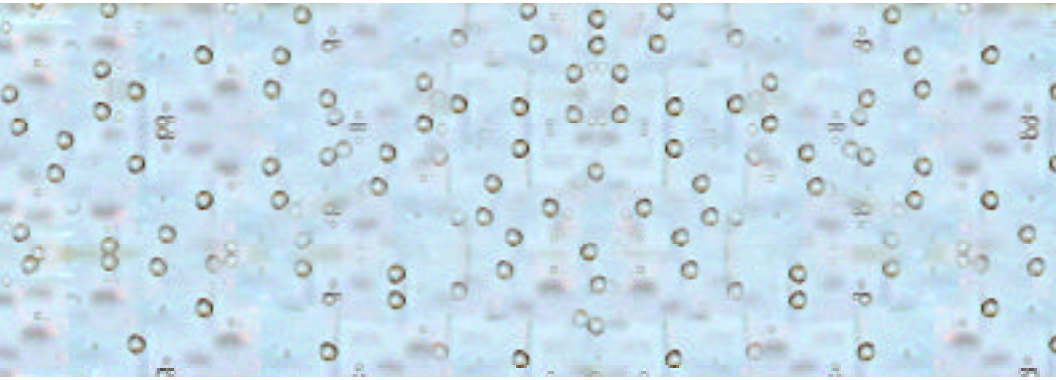


I light up
a cigarette
which serves me
as a lamp

while
your hand is
in the fist
the rose stays together
but as you
open it
finger
by finger
petals fall



in the vase
there is a
withered flower
it drank up
all the water



it rains a lot here
so they call it
the capital city of rain
and I sit on the floor
pretending
that my feet
are the windshield wipers

she was pretty
and we had a very
nice conversation
then came the
train conductor
looked
at my ticket
and told me to
go to a different
caboose

I am on this
floor
she is on the third
every now and then
we end up
in the same elevator
then downstairs
we pass each other
in the hallway
sometimes she says hello
sometimes nothing

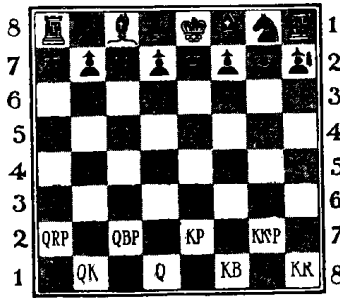
true
what I see in
the mirror
is myself
still we know
that it's all
backwards.



too many times
I wrote and rewrote them
now let me ask you
whose fault is it
that the poems
you were supposed
to inspire
are so shitty

I often make my boss
the subject of my writing
there he is the same as always
arrogant and stupid
and the boss of me

Before he became god
Chiva was an ascetic
Meditating before the waterfall
That's where Parvati found him
But to her he paid no attention
Lo
She went to a magician
Who turned her into a mountain
A mountain behind the waterfall
Of Chiva's meditation
And Chiva contemplated
This mountain
Days
Months
And years
And this is how Chiva
Fell in love with Parvati.



before I met you
I had two passions in life
chess and piano
but ever since you left
I have changed a lot
and no longer play chess
only the piano



to the gypsy woman
who took me by the hand
I gave a dollar
one dollar only
for her to tell me
that my fortune
is the very best of all

into
the wishing well
I dropped two coins
but it's been two weeks
since you called
I want
my money
back



seeing my wife take off her
clothes is disappointing
on the other hand
watching her put them on
is quite exciting
then
she has to take them off again
which as I had already mentioned
can be disappointing

call me when you get home
but before I got around
they broke my neck
from the hospital
I wanted to call you
but remembered
that you went to bed late
and will probably sleep untill noon

tweaking the keys
she tells me about running out of gas
and the kids in the car
so I'd give her some change
knowing well
that there isn't a car
to that key
miles and miles around here

ok
I'll pay
but will you
please put
your clothes
back on

mistakes
we all make
last night drunk at the bar
I mistook some woman
for my wife
regrets to both of them

just a bad habit
when passing by the windows
of department stores
I often
look under the skirts of manikins
sorry
that wasn't a manikin

you can look straight into my eyes
just don't look down
or up

the economy of style-1:
when unable to dry my hands
I stuff them in my pockets

the economy of style-2:
before leaving the bathroom
he washed only one hand

wrapping on a towel
is harder and takes longer
then putting on clothes



in the park
I see again
that statue
its fig leaf
has turned
green again



in
the window
my hairdresser
his scizzors
like a sign
of benediction



*when I die
on my grave
you can write
whatever you like*

(untitled)

Vadin Bystritski

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revealing all your dirty little secrets

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