



Image from Arabian Pearls

John Marvin

### Mission Control

You convected the price of admission  
your current thought  
    flowed fifth core sound  
        not hot wet yellow or gas  
    stout as swell percussion rolls  
        thick as bet cash to boot  
the beat the scale the bribe the bride the tribe.

Then I remembered when not the seller  
but the buyer closed that price.  
    You digressed toward what had been  
        offered as a reward for my head.  
You spoke of what you would then,  
    two thousand years later [. . . ]  
        pay for one pearl.

You changed your approach  
    spoke of what must be  
yes what must be undergone to obtain  
    in time sacrifice penalty

not in unfolding  
of petals

you wrestled with rock & roll  
in the mirror scent  
of acknowledgment  
of criminal intent  
of crime in a lint tent  
unveiling allegation  
the price of admission  
the sense of a wish

---

John Marvin has poems in scores of magazines, including six Pushcart nominations, and literary criticism in several journals. He seeks to marry the experimental, non-narrative with the lyric and traditional in the manner of Nietzsche's marriage of Apollo and Dionysos. He is loved by his faithful dog, Hugo.