

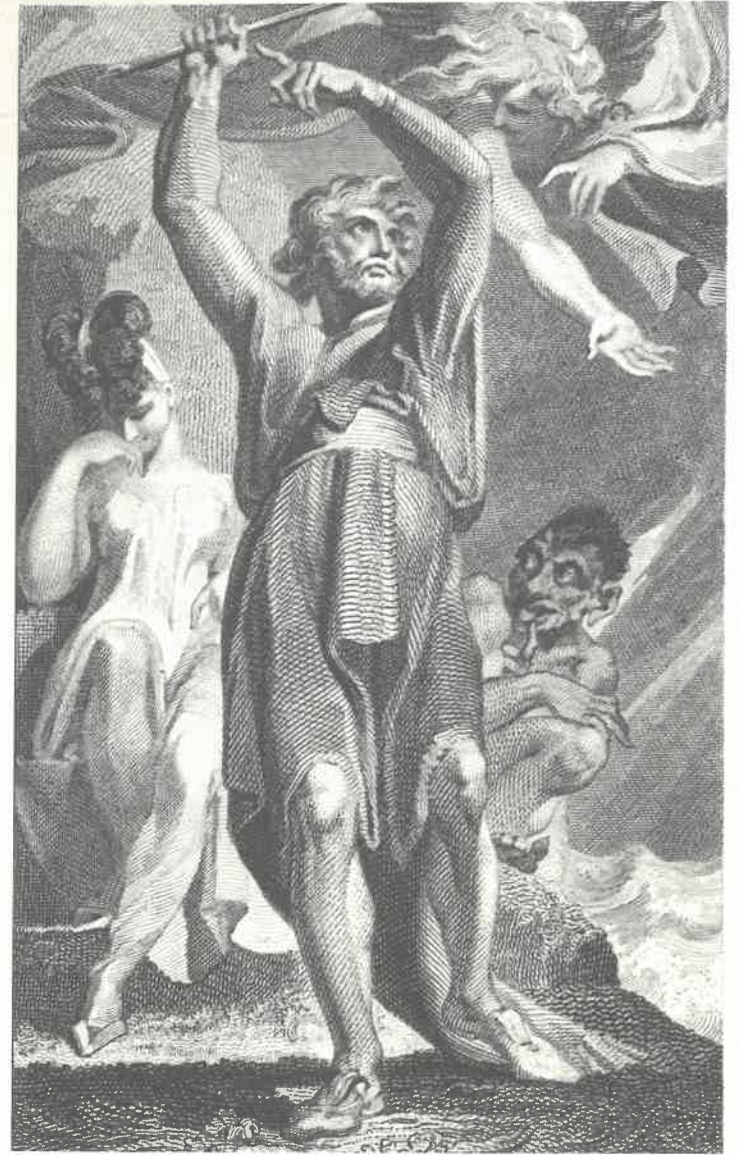
MR

Vol. XXIX, No. 2

THE MASSACHUSETTS REVIEW

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THE MASSACHUSETTS REVIEW



Essays: Abbie Huston Evans by Carl Little · The 1986 World Cup in Brazil by Terry Caesar · William J. Hughes, A Time in Jail · George Monteiro on Henry Adams · Literary Wetback by Alicia Gaspar de Alba · Alden T. Vaughan on Shakespeare's *Savage* · *Poems & Stories* by Roger Mitchell · Emmon Bach · Carol Potter · Arturo Vivante · Donna Trussell · Steve Barthelme · D. Nurkse · Judith E. Johnson · Robin Mary Boswell · Randeane Tetu · Ron Overton · Nell Altizer · Geraldine C. Little · Toi Derricotte · Kate Daniels · Tony Lintermans · Athina Papadaki · Robert McNamara



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The Massachusetts Review Summer 1988

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I turned off the exhaust fan.

Let the walls weep great tears
of steam.

MARRIAGE BED

On my wedding night
My grandmother's crocheted blanket covered the bed.
What's more, we had a boy sit on the bed
So I would have a son,
And we even threw gold coins on it, and rice,
and sugared almonds.
A linen ritual. At night, the bedsheet gave up,
Bloodied, like a cornered animal.

Translated from the Greek
by Thalia Pandiri

D. Nurkse

DESERTION

The enemy is so vast
they say if you burn your uniform
and forget who you were
you will find a house like yours
behind the lines, and children
like your brothers and sisters,
and you will find parents
who are missing a child
who looks like you, you will find lilac
in an alley and the smell of bread,
then you can rest and listen
to the drums of the reserve.

FACTIONS

Horsemen came by my house
at night wanting to know
which side I was on.
At first I said: God:
meaning, nothing: but later
even that was not a safe answer:
I said the side of the poor
but that became very dangerous:
I explained that I was on the side
of God's poverty but not my own
and against the divinity of the poor
except in my case: but these were not men
given to subtleties: they had ridden hard
and their horses whinnied outside
lathered in the icy wind.