

JOHN REZMERSKI

**THREE POEMS BY GRACE LORD STOKE**

Grace Lord Stoke (1892-1943, poet and autodidact, claimed affiliation with the Lovecraft circle. Her works, long thought lost, have recently come to light and some have been published, with an introduction, as "One and Twenty Poems by Grace Lord Stoke," edited by J.C. Rez (Bootless Publications, 1999). She was best known for her 408-poem sequence, Blood Sonnets, and for her Saga of Red Ethel the Unruly.

**THE FOG THING  
for Carl and Hilda**

The Fog Thing comes like a little cat  
On soft damp feet, finding its way  
Paw by claw through muck and clay  
Past this dead Something, this undead That.

**A SONG OF BLOODY EXPERIENCE**

O Tiger, my Tiger, your fitful trip is done,  
Burning and burning, brighter and brighter,  
What undying hand has grasped the prize you won,  
What deathless eye has framed thee, fearful biter?  
What the port, what the vessel  
By which thou comest to wrestle  
For the heart, the bleeding drops of red,  
Where thou soon will have fed.  
O Tiger, Tiger, would God have made thee  
Hunger after little lambs  
If he really gave a damn?  
The long hunt is over, the prey is fairly won.

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**MANDIOZMUS**

I met a traveler from a land a long way off,  
Who said: An incomplete stone man stands  
Somewhat featureless on featureless sand  
Guarded by a sign that says, Hands Off.  
The sign, the traveler said with a sigh,  
Had somewhat misrepresented the case:  
The hands were not what did not appear to the eye;  
Something else had disappeared without a trace,  
And it was not the name and position of the thing,  
Which were inscribed: 'Mandiozmus the King.'  
It was nonetheless clear that someone had meant  
A message to all who happened by that place,  
The import of which was emphatically sent  
With hammer-blows not easy to erase  
Though those self-same blows did effectively deface  
Parts that are not so easy to replace.  
The moral of the tale for all to see was very plain:  
Even the hardest manhood is subject to eminent domain.  
The old day is dying, a new game has begun.

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