## POETRY

## **Corn Eclogue**

disguised as one of those 1940s Sister acts close harmony slinky cocktail gowns Corn would sing lead, Bean & Squash do the doo-wahs & scat

> tortillas hushpuppies grits succotash

corn liquor — white lightening silage/seepage & a chorus line of dead drunk cows.

Any

echt-

American ecologue would be inescapably involved tinged with corn — let's call it High Corn like Harry Smith's collection of old 78s thin eerie corniness of the Carter Family like angels with pellagra or North Mexican radio polkas with Bavarian tubes & Charro guitars musical offerings to a sacred katchina commeal painting by Norman Rockwell or Spoonbread American Eleusinian Hoe-Down pastoral corn blue grass Celto-Appalachian bluets for white people grand guignol border minstrelsy a child ballad gothic crossed with West African syncopated banjo no morbid sentimentality or baptist angst can wither the throbbing orgone of this compone.

Aunt J. from Jessup used to say apropos Willy Nelson: country music is the true American poetry and wasn't there weeping on muddy graves in thunder storms too much whiskey — suicide — brother-in-law in the KKK State Prison land adjoined their farm & once an escaped murderer found by bloodhounds in their barn

down on the Eastern Shore

her husband Uncle A. was a genius of corn

grew the best Silver Queen sweet white

ever tasted

cooked Thanksgiving turkey w/ squirrels in cornmeal pepper crust with blue ribbon corn relish/piccalilli recipe handed down from his grandmother — he hunted — he fished

& he was out of his fucking mind

Music

to keep driving all night by on coffee & bennies till dawn finds you three states away on fading radio stations nothing but gospel or C&W adverts for bog feed & patent medicine sermons & miles & miles of hybrid corn.

Big combines are taking over foreclosing on mortgages corn is assuming its Spectral aspect — revenge of the Corn Goddess — mad cow disease — frankenfoods — autism KC originally invented a cure for masturbation now cause childhood obesity Ritalin — halfdead midwestern farm towns grain silos rusting beside orphan railway tracks

Evil Corn Anti-Pastoral Corn denatured corn

no spirit no taste

ghost husks of post-modern corn toxic blandness you can hear it in the mu#&~ like suffocating in a plastic bag neo-con corn corn on steroids cornball imperialism let them eat corn. Demeter weeps for her daughter in Hell keeps the seed power hidden causes a most terrible & dog-like year to occur again & again robs the gods of the greasy smoke of sacrifices that symbolize b e reciprocity with nature & resolves the dialectic in a Perscelean trialectic that hinges on a single pomegranate seed's secret psychotropic identity - which according to my old pen-pal the late Dr Mahdihassan of Pakistan whose work is cited in Needham's Sci. & Civ. in China in the ruby chalice of the lapis philosophorum hazelnut of the Salmon of Wisdom at the Source of the Boyne Hesperidean apple poisoned apple blood drop deep sacrifice gift magic bethe blight on the corn that kills you is also Gilgamesh's lost herb of immortality thunderbolt child born in hell like a flash of light from underground Iacchos the esoteric Bacchus the Pastoral Redeemer the Mead of Poetry; Triple Goddess—Persephone Demeter

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Hecate
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beans
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corn

squash

Flux

morphology

Linnaeus dressed as a Lappish shaman

three crows on a dead branch the Andrew Sisters,

L. Frank Baum was the Midwestern Swedenborg Emerald City of Hermes Trismegistus hobo utopia Zephyrs of Cockaigne a tramp's view of heaven an Irish Oz hasty pudding houses thatched in bacon bogs of whipped schlag trees fruiting w/ blackpuddings etc. ad nauseum

or tobacco Offer tobacco to the Three Sisters—the blue smoke of visible prayer,

— Peter Lamborn Wilson

(Notes: See The Homeric Hymn to Demeter, trans. by Chuck Stein; the recipe for Zephyrs of Cockaigne is from the Joy of Cooking; Tip-o-The fez to M. Pollan.)