

**Evan Jones**

*From the Greek of Miltos Sachtouris*

**The Drowned**

I wonder if the drowned  
on the corner in their striped white suits  
are like me?

I heard the voice of my distant father  
I broke his watch open  
and took the extraneous small cogs  
and springs from inside

I spread the candies out on the table  
green yellow red  
they took on small invisible voices  
like living things

a reddish-blond cat became nervous  
rushing in it tore my book

I spread my heart out on the table  
and cut it in two with a breadknife

later on I lay flowers inside the bath tub

later on I fell asleep.

**The Carnival**

This carnival took place on some distant world  
donkeys wandered the deserted road  
where there is no breathing  
dead children rose up endlessly into the sky  
then returned for a moment to claim their forgotten kites  
snow fell like glass confetti  
wounding all hearts  
a woman in prayer  
rolled back her eyes like the dead do  
and groups of soldiers passed by one and two  
one and two their teeth frozen

At night the carnival moon came out  
full of hate  
only to be stabbed  
then bound and thrown into the sea

This carnival took place on some distant world

## Harmony

*for Eva Persáki*

The tree said:  
- I'll break my branches  
tonight  
I'll burn  
I'll rise!

The lights in the house  
drove me mad  
rising and going out  
without word

The child said:  
- It's winter  
and the sea is distant by ship  
and people dig  
deep  
they dig  
and bury everything

The sun said:  
- I slept and dreamed  
I was  
a dove  
with a belly full of  
licentious blood

And the ship said:  
- I slept  
I want to sleep  
but the night is deep  
but the night is dark  
and there are no fish

*Miltos Sachtoúris (1919-2005) was a major figure in Greek letters and twice won the National Poetry Award, in 1962 and 1987, and more recently received the 2003 Grand State Literature Prize for his life's work. He died in March 2005 in Athens. These three poems are from a collection (1945-1971) originally published in 1977. Printed by kind permission of Kedros Books, Athens.*