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Black-on-Black

Mary A. Etienne

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this willow weeps
 ostensibly from form
 but just as surely mourns the
sleep of grateful dead, seeking
 after a corn-pone Christ
 with phantoms from the
deep.

in the name of Religion
 frozen-lidded moralists chant
 a black requiem. it is a
cult mass, misleading errant
 man that there
 is no glory in life and
 even less glory in death.

the "lathe of heaven" admonishes
us and affirms how
blasé life would be were all humanity the
same in
 color,
 character and
 sensibilities:

this is so disgustingly clear to a children
 of avarice who sell their
 soul never to cry again!

what a bizarre encore - temperamental ancient
princesses bring embalming fluid
 to the Temple of Osiris in
 ornamental jars of gold and
 alabaster,
 depicting lotus blossoms, royal
 beings leading soldiers into
 combat, and scenes of
 birth,
 life and
 death.

Mary A. Etienne