

Fedwa Malti-Douglas

2:30 AM

Hypnos and Somnus insane gods of sleep dancing in my head awakening me
in a Bosch Garden
of Earthly delights
Last judgments be damned I want to escape
to another world
I dream of Heaven Michelangelo
To hell with temptation
I ask myself why
I cannot just dance
in a Chagall world
where couples fly
where donkeys bray

Colors

if colors could speak

would red reject
its link to Hell

how would black express
its fear of darkness

would the green of spring
sing love to flowers

would brand new brown shoes
curse dirty sidewalks

blue of tropic seas
unable to sleep
shedding tears over
noisy pleasure boats

orange danger signs
bemoan their sad fate

yellow of urine
running into drains
forever ashamed

passion's deep purple
always exhausted

if colors could speak
would we set them free

Raised in a Lebanese mountain village, **Fedwa Malti-Douglas** came to America at the age of 13. After a rich academic career, Prof. Malti-Douglas turned her attention to other muses, publishing a novel *Hisland*, in 1998 and poetry. Her honors include the 1997 Kuwait Prize in Arts and Letters, and the National Humanities Medal for 2014, presented in 2015 by President Barack Obama. Her memoir, *Speaking in Tongues*, appeared in 2017.