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## ***Madonna***

David Sparenberg

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*Madonna*

# MADONNA

by

David Sparenberg

Fruited Madonna of the Earth  
lays naked in a meadow of wild flowers.  
A thousand and one honey bees  
have alighted on her swollen abdomen.  
Like fuzzy, pollinated angels  
they gather in droning chant  
to celebrate the coming of life.  
(Her child will inherit sweetness  
as a power over death.)

First milk, miniaturized to resemble rivers of light,  
is hotly sucked from heavy breasts  
by a smiling sun. Her  
lips part, in panting breath, as  
her womb, in mantic rapture, opens.

Another dream of God contracts, is pained with revelation,  
and moistens the virgin beauty  
of her fire-brown eyes.  
Fingers dig and fists clench tight  
compressing threads of grass. Here  
will grow an altar of vines. And there  
in leafy mounds  
a pilgrim-shrine to venerate Our Lady  
of purple grapes and gold-red apples.