

E I K Ō N

"Duality characterized Nikolai Apollonovich; there were two of him. Such duality is usually a woman's prerogative; duality is a feminine rather than a masculine trait; in truth, integrity is the symbol of the male."

— from Andrey Biely's St. Petersburg

Is it absurd to imagine that earth shifting:
rattling bone: the squirting lip mean death:
that in some recent life I drained an empty
cup. That I with lousy beard and dirty hair
tripped on my coat and cursing fell into the
ghostly river. That I too searched for a mis-
sing nose and set myself afire and walked in
yellow-phantom shoes. I too mistook a hand-
kerchief for wind! I too could sing and cry
and dance and leap and wink and fall asleep
and think and weep at Pushkin and deeply sink
into the snowswept Russian drink. What I for-
got the Neva kept. I wept to save my eyes from
sight: I kissed the oriental lip and wore Man-
churian fur to keep prophetic me from memory.
I slept and when not sleeping crept in fright.

— Christopher Perret

Deya, Mallorca, Spain

The Boundary

One who has seen on a wall, in chair, as shadow the
shape of his presence, sees the edges of a silhouette
as a boundary still unclaimed.

— Russell Edson

Stamford, Conn.

Russell Edson's The Very Thing That Happens will be
published by New Directions in April, 1964