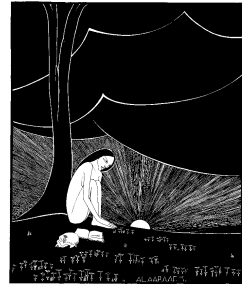


# THE ANTHROPY

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It began

before the clotted dust had settled, and the butter of this bailiwick  
sphere tore, severed into countries and cultures  
by the clicking metacarpals of the clock. In the before,  
when all was unanimous and definitive, mankind scoured  
the loam with their knuckles, thirsty jaws and savage tongues  
consuming, commemorating forgotten gods.

Before

physics dominated tissue, when mystery tyrannised  
the globe and acrid sacrifice conceded the sunrise,  
all was ambiguous. To halt the progress of uncertainty  
bipedal ancestors bound our golden star with chains of  
dogma, brought her hurtling down as human,  
worshipped the helium goddess.

Then

the altars eroded and praise stood slow, immobile.  
Philistine neurons adapted and evolved, the goddess transgressing,  
slipping from mind and memory, replaced with new pilgrimages.  
Still chained she sits dethroned by Nyx's foliage, mourning,  
as beams of dulcet sunrise cleanse her wasted frame,  
the bible by her side.

By Shelby Derbyshire, Jarrow, Tyne and Weir.  
The poem is based on the drawing **Untitled** (1931).