

## **#2 Futet n'nji vesh e del nga tjetri**

Mundet t'ket qenë sot apo dje  
endur për me gjet varrin e vashës  
që ka qenë, a s'ka qenë, e s'ndala  
Thon e rrxue nga pushkat a krushqve tu thyer rrugën  
Gjana qi ndodhin, por edhe un e humbun  
endacake se theva rrugën

### Rituali

shallvaret tue lëkund n'krye t'odës  
valle heshtje paja  
dhunti i mishit e bukës para dasmës,  
ka prek pllamën me gjethe rrushi  
mbush  
mbush  
e mbush,  
intervalet e syve me vikame  
tu hap e mbyllë e mbush e çarçaf  
ka spërkat tlynin  
rrjete-t'shkon menja-nrrue syt-me t'marrë – me t'dhanë,  
chocek duel prej nanës n'aktin e fundit

rolet kthehen mbrapsht  
teatër axha u ba dhandër, u ba babe,  
pashpenzuar, simulakër kapërcim shestimesh  
katërmëdhjet-vjeç-dhandër  
tu u majt mbi karrige me u duk ma i gjatë  
jastiqet ndër tesha, foshnje fantazëm,  
vallja e ushqimit kur fiket drita  
mungesa vazhdon

palinë  
mos u idhno so do martohesh  
do jesh e lumtun ku do shkosh  
e jemi nga familje t'kamuna  
nusja jonë sa e bukur  
shtatin si selvie-o  
kjaj moj çikë me çorap me vegza  
vonohet kana pika-pika.

## **#2 In one ear and out the other**

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It was sometime ago, or maybe just yesterday;  
I became completely lost en route to finding a monument  
to a woman who could or couldn't have been.  
It is said her death was brought about  
By the scuffle between her kin bringing the young bride  
and the groom's family coming in for the taking.  
Such things happen, but it's impossible to say whether the monument is still there  
and my own self disappeared along the route because it got lost so many times.

The ritual  
shalvari floating before the audience  
in a dance of silence  
designed by her assets  
the bride-to-be has recreated each meal on the table  
to exhibit for the guests  
has rested her hands besides the grape leaves  
stuffing  
stuffing

stuffing

short intervals of arresting eyes

opening and closing linen and trousseau

has melted the butter

sewing and framing on round, metallic trays

female-networks-of-communication-in-the-asking-in-the-telling

the obligation to dance – the dance by choice

the *chocheck put up* the mother devises in the final act

Then again, the roles reversed

in a play, the uncle/husband/wife

unspun, simulacrum of obligation

the fourteen-year-old groom

holding on to the chair with his legs to appear taller,

the pillow underneath the clothes, a phantom child,

the movement of food on the table

when the dance is done

the absence remains

dear girl

don't be sad because

you will be happy where you are going

we are both from very renowned families

how beautiful the bride

praise, praise praise,

how beautiful

her mouth is a box

her body of the cypress tree

cry over your stockings

cry under the hay bales

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