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Bridging this World and Others

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STEPHANIE V. SEARS

In Pagan Fashion

When centuries were fewer
and Sygtrygg sailed the Seine

in red feathers and spinals
dream adorned man.

The chimera of time
beat by evening's molten leaves.

The sun lone and divine
the moon nude in the dark.

The pungent smell of chance
sprinkled over seas and rivers.

Rocks and trees muttered to,
around whose mossy monuments

amber, love, immortal victory were
cradled by the amorphous fog.

Tomorrow ambushed with an axe
and the clear unflinching eyes.

Yesterday magnified and pinned
like a butterfly's dazzle.

Void of intemperate innocence
lewd transgressions,

wine's fair locks
humble benches cornering warmth.

Flesh in the guise of milk, clay
a ruddy cheek, spiraled gold.

For me too the belief
that lost things return,

the faultless intimacy that dwells in spirit,
the practical law of transmigration.