

## APPETITE

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*Michael Pfeifer*

*"The Anazeh of the extreme north set the stranger by himself  
and in the dark, that he be not ashamed of his appetite."*

*Seven Pillars of Wisdom, T.E. Lawrence*

Only in blindness, the nomads believe,  
do we truly find appetite;  
forgetting manners before the food  
and God. The huge brass plate,  
the only one the Anazeh have,  
overflows with rice  
and the broken quarters of a lamb.  
Solitude lets the guest grope  
after whatever he wishes  
with the excess and zeal  
appropriate to the famine  
he brings to share with the desert.  
Bedouin kindness is a custom  
nurtured on daily deprivation.  
Imitating the desert,  
each man is welcome for one day,  
after which he may be killed.  
The sheep's boiled skull is thus cracked  
alone and the sweet brain's sucked out.