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# In a Spanish Schoolyard

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## IN A SPANISH SCHOOLYARD

When the sun escapes the schoolyard  
Juan comes to sweep the dirt in place  
and to lower the volleyball net  
(strange gift from the 6th Fleet)

unlike his father who fished Mallorca  
when fish exceeded turistas, and Franco;  
always the mind of Juan tumbling back  
to the bells, the Sisters half-way

into Heaven as they leap for the ropes,  
the soldiers pissing in the fountain,  
grinning brown air at smiling priests  
who have been grinning ever since;

always the mind of Juan cursing  
death about the dark schoolyard  
securing the ghosts of children,  
his old hips singing with keys,

the American ladies passing by,  
charmed to be Ali Baba brown,  
charmed to peek in at Juan,  
charmed all Spain is at work;

always the mind of Juan muttering  
of his people—dead his friends,  
dead the young chicos who fear Franco,  
dead Spain fearing the death of Franco.