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From "Metamorphoses"

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Argyris Hionis · Greece

from METAMORPHOSES

XXI

when I first put this suit on
it was cold and stiff
I felt caught behind its seams
its zippers and buttons
my movements were unnatural
my walk the way I sat
the way I thought and felt
suddenly became self-conscious
my body became a stranger
whose actions I could watch

all this in the beginning
because little by little
the suit began giving in
it got softer
it took the shape of my body and movements
which had become once again
free and un-self-conscious
to the point of believing that
I was just dressed in my own skin
when he first got inside me
he was nervous and scared
he was constantly fighting my zippers
and buttons he was trying to rip my seams
and give me the shape of his naked body
he felt like a trapped animal
and like a cage I had to resist him
I was as tough as I could be in the beginning
so he would forget what he was before
so he would get used to my mold and I would then

pretend that was his form that I had assumed
so that now he is at the point of believing
that he had never existed outside of me

like my being his very own skin?

XXIV

my profession is to get other people drunk
my entire life depends on my clients' intoxication
which is why it better not be quick or sudden
but deliberate and slow

besides my clients should not feel
lonely or ridiculous at the thought that I
the sober one am laughing at their antics

so I have to drink
I get drunk with them I sing
I do all the crazy things they do all night long
till dawn
when I can be by myself
and behind lowered blinds

count the take

translated by Stavros Deligiorgis