

RESIGNATION (CHAIRIL ANWAR)
by Christopher Mulrooney

sleep I cannot
yowling people chatting dogs
the world afar diminishing
darkness rising brick-and-mortar
voices assail
fire and ash beside

let me speak
voiceless water-weak
what odds
the world stands still for no questioning
and cares naught

the river freezes over
life's not life anymore

I tell the history
ears shut eyes sealed

it shall be calm anon

THE BARBARIAN AT THE GATES
by Christopher Mulrooney

he comes in whistling the same old tune
my lawyers will have it drawn up for you soon

WHISPERS OF IMMORTALITY ETC
by Christopher Mulrooney

in a sequel the prequel is on the books
already you should come on down
the studio's fine the worry
the money down the yokels
all that's fine and dandy

CAMPAIGN
by Christopher Mulrooney

the conduct of the wars
says General Su Wu
what do I care about that?
I have a wife and four daughters
playing with a ball

incontestable all this philosophy

I have written in a lined notebook
about things

I would tell my aide-de-camp
none of it

DIATRIBE
by Christopher Mulrooney

precisely in the order about
face would you I continue
dictate terms of the early surrender

and now the stillness becomes
all at once the one and only thing
I can have stomach for

anyway the same holds true
for whatever you can say that
holds true for you in your turn
what you can have stomach for

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