

## Whale

by Leszek Czuchajowski  
(translated from Polish)

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Did the snow owls  
or polar geese  
capture the thoughts  
pounding in you and in me  
and fly with them  
toward the arctic sea  
to ask a whale  
that has been just caught,  
"Is it true that when  
they cut you into pieces to eat  
amid the ritual dances  
you did not feel any pain?"  
"Yes, indeed, it hurts, but  
it does not matter because  
they will return to the sea what  
has been left of me  
and by that they return to it  
my soul but tell me  
who will return  
to the sea your souls  
when – God forbidding –  
you turn your back on yourselves  
and cut yourselves into pieces?"

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