Asparachrist *(for Andres Serrano)*

Terry Trowbridge

A cylindrical green shoot firms itself in the evening, embedded between the new-sprouted Easter grass. A pagan element among symbols of Christ.

The ambiguously erect spear is picked.

In the hand of a settler-soldier who looks up at the figure of the Sun, the asparagus feels familiar. It has the shape of a piercing armament, the width of the space between an adult’s ribs.

The settler-soldier reflects on the Romanesque city he sees in one direction; reflects on the poverty-stricken local farmers he sees in the other direction. His garrison cooks for the mass of soldiers. Therefore, he idly considers where to go to find a friend for dinner who will boil his asparagus for just him.

On his way to dinner, a cloud burst rains refracting the red and gold reflections of sunset over his sunburnt body. He smells the rain, and the golden droplets, thinking of the smell of asparagus, cherishing the transmutations of the body.

He is so hungry and far from home.

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