

**Beyond-Boredom**  
**/Além-Tédio<sup>1</sup>**

Mário de Sá-Carneiro  
translated by Simon Park

Nothing ends for me, nothing lives on —  
Not sadness, not joyful moments.  
To have them no more and not to have them again,  
Even what I never had bores me.

How I wish, finally forsaken by my soul,  
To rest in peace in a hospital bed...  
I have tired within myself, I have tired out life  
By dreaming it away in imaginary light.

Once I imagined scaling the heavens  
By force of ambition and nostalgia,  
And suffering from nausea-of-the-New, I was God  
On that golden path that blazed within.

I left. But soon came back to the sorrow,  
Everything crushed me... Everything was the same:  
The chimera, encircled, was real,  
The miraculous itself took on colour!

Echoing myself in silence, the dark night  
Sent me falling, with no hope of return;  
I swallowed myself into the depths,  
Dried myself out, hardened with boredom.

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<sup>1</sup> These poems were in part translated for the forthcoming book, *Mário de Sá-Carneiro, A Cosmopolitan Modernist*, edited by Simon Park and Fernando Belega, which will be released soon with Peter Lang.

Today, a single source of joy remains:  
That, so empty and unchanging,  
The moments flit away from me each day  
Ever quicker, ever leaner...

## **That Other One** **/Aqueloutro**

Mário de Sá-Carneiro  
translated by Simon Park

The dubious in masquerade – the liar  
Who, in the end, passed through life incognito.  
The ersatz King-Moon, the confounded fake –  
At heart, a meticulous coward.

Instead of a Footman, a smug fool.  
His snow-white Soul, the disgust at having vomited –  
His mind, trumpeted as though it were unconquerable,  
An invert and eager minion.

The gutless and desireless – a shrinking violet  
(His heart perhaps clockwork ...)  
Despite his screams to the Ideal.

The lavish, the banished, the disloyal –  
The puffed-up, belching celestial empire,  
The powerless magician – the pudgy Sphinx ...

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