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A New Day

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College of DuPage

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The Mandarin's Dilemma
Karian Markos

for the Mandarin to voluntarily shed its peel
to discard its protective layer
and sit on a plate exposed
it would have to accept that it may be devoured
hungrily and unceremoniously

would it be too much for the Mandarin to hope
that if it disrobes
undoes its pithy corset
revealing its segments
they would one by one
pass through a pair of delicately parted lips
perhaps grazing them gently
be lain onto the most appreciative tongue
and swirled and savored until
the thin skin containing its hundreds of juice sacs
bursts open in a flood of ecstasy

why else but for its trepidation
would it attempt to preserve itself
when the alternative
is to rot
without having shared its gifts

