Beyond-Boredom
/Além-Tédio¹

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.

¹ These poems were in part translated for the forthcoming book, *Mário de Sá-Carneiro, A Cosmopolitan Modernist*, edited by Simon Park and Fernando Beleza, 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

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 …

Bio
Simon Park is Camões Teaching Fellow in Renaissance Portuguese at the University of Oxford and Lecturer in Portuguese at Merton College, Oxford. His research straddles early modern Portuguese literature and Portuguese Modernism(s). He is the editor (with Fernando Beleza), of Mário de Sá-Carneiro, A Cosmopolitan Modernist, which will be published in the near future.

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