

# Lights and Shadows

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## Blond at the Water Cooler

William C. Barnwell

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BLONDE AT THE WATER COOLER

The fashion consists of  
lush gold heaped high  
on a powdery swan's neck.  
Here comes everyman,  
lusty as an ape,  
swinging the hall in great possession  
of reason;  
Venus at the water fountain  
foams his thought to non-existence,  
her calm hello balm in gilead  
and even if he had had  
priapus' will he would have said  
too much like swallowing honey.  
What, she passes?  
Ah, Pygmalion, you carve too well.  
Your creation becomes a dream of stone  
in the Louvre of your memories,  
where all doors do not open on death.

William C. Barnwell  
First Prize Poetry