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The Islands of My Inland Seas

By Vadis Elmo Daley

Blue Dolphin Publishing, Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 136 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.9in. x 0.4in. The poetry of Elmo Daley is in nearly every sense remarkable, shot through with surprise, the sonnet for instance virtually redefined, the old Petrarchan and Shakespearean paradigms in places burst casually apart with unexpected syllables, words breaking at lines ending so as to reveal a rhyme that had been hiding latent in a words interior, lines running short, running long, and at other times perfectly fulfilling the ancient pattern. Daley works with form and is willing to play with it - in the way that only a master can. The work is infallibly and sometimes painfully honest. The major theme is Catholic, and yet the old pagan gods and demons and satyrs sometimes enter in, are given fair and sympathetic treatment, even as they are hunted down and extirpated. In the poem In Sunlight, Silent Fields, we hear these words: Old phallic April, play buffoon no more, Abandon now that shook-silk emerald glance, Beneath such delicate decorum pants The tropic blood of satyrs. All the lore Priapus taught when first the world began This swelling root and pregnant seed reveals. And yet all human...


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