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## Night Character translated by Frank Stewart

Dino Campana

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## NIGHT CHARACTER

Florence below was an abyss of lights of trembling sordidness:  
On wings of fire the faraway rangling  
Of the tram faded: the enormous dull river  
Flashed its serpent's scales.  
Above the indefinite spirals the disquiet smirking faces  
Of thieves, and I between two equal rows of cypresses like  
sputtering torches

More bitter than cypress hedges  
More bitter than trembling box-trees  
As from my heart this love  
As from my heart, the love a pimp breaks into song:  
I love the old whores  
Swollen with the fermentation of sperm  
Who flop like toads on all fours on their red mattresses  
And wait and pant and gasp  
Flaccid as bellows.

*translated by  
Frank Stewart*