

Fall 1988

## Water; 1207 Muscatine Avenue

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## *Sweat Socks from Hell*

They were like trumpets announcing something  
to cows asleep in a snowstorm.  
Wherever they passed were bent little scorchmarks  
and athletes hopping on their amazed toes.  
Fountains embraced them with a kind of sneeze  
and spit them out again  
and were ever after lustful, greedy for coin  
or virgins—of which there are now so few.  
Everywhere populations buckled their boots  
and sent up for word of new powers  
to set against these marauding equipages,  
for new kinds of foot death and disease  
with which their favor might be bought.  
But it was no good; they kept coming. At last  
everyone could see them, an army of random quote marks  
on the move, burning and sweating  
into everything as they cackled and ran and ran.

*Christopher Howell*