

## On Etching Your Legacy

Rip the waves and the water  
Into a spitting image of your face

Toss the chieftain into the ocean  
Make each straight palm tree bow  
So its bark gets a backache  
Crush beach rocks until they match the texture and color of your skin

Fill coconuts with sweet milk then shut them  
In beige trap  
Hard as your kneecap  
Sip from them like sherry and  
Grow strong and  
Conquer  
And do not thank them  
And begin etching your name into limestone

Sink your goddess fingernails into the sand and  
Heave up all the precious ignatius rocks humanity shall never touch  
And find, hiding in the dunes  
An oyster

You are it's righteous, heroic  
Dictator-Queen-Savior  
For how many centuries was  
Oyster talking over you?  
Tiny and Sheltered and Opinionated  
Ask it if it knows that your potential  
Pulls the current and rules the tide.

If it's ignorant and incorrect  
Abandon it at sea.  
Kick the sand into submission  
And for its insolence  
Make it stink of fish  
Fill your kingdom with loyal finned citizens  
And have each one of your decrees be so  
Revolutionary  
The seashells whisper your name for centuries

Goddess,

Etch your name into limestone  
So the sea can soak it up  
And will never forget you.