

The whole world over

by [John F. Deane](#) in the [July 10, 2013](#) issue

I see him, mariner Jesus, walking on corrupted  
waters of the Danube while down in silted depths  
lurk the unexploded bombs of lately wars; I walk out,  
hand in hand with the poem, crossing on the high  
redemption bridge, to earth corrupted by tar and concrete,  
where down in the darkly shiftless soil words crawl,  
eyeless and eager. Between sleep and day, light  
and black, I grow conscious of compelling truths—  
but something in the ego-wassailing of flesh compels me  
back to comfort, and something in the slippery  
eel-mud of the mind eases towards sleep, though always  
Jesus plods on over all the corrupted waters  
heading for the unforgiving hill, for his piercing  
cry of forgiveness out-into-the-outraged world.