THE KRAMDEN ANTHOLOGY OF DEEP LIFE-ALTERING LITERATURE

presents

GREEN EGGS AND HAM: A REAL POEM

by e. e. ginsburg

"Essen Sie nie mehr als was Sie tragen konnten."
—Miss Piggy

1

Sam-I-Am.
Ohh, Sam-I-Am
The passionate beast drooling menacingly over all
He treads, planting, watering, and sowing the seeds of
Destruction, feasting on the fruits
Like a beartrap in shellshock—
I do not like that Sam-I-Am.

II

Caught! I am
Backed into a defensive
(wait, my dictionary is lost; defensible? defendable?)
a defective corner by...

That Sam-I-Am!
Taunting, teasing, consistently displeasing,
Overhead towers that one question
My undoing, my Achilles’ sole—uh, I mean heel—
Threatening to undo that which is myself:
"Do you like...green eggs and ham?"
Autumn 1992

three

NO!
I do not like
Green Eg
Gs an
D ham! (Whoa. Return key was stuck. I think I fixed it.)
Hie thee hence, foul Sam-I-Am!
Begone!

2^2

Foul temptation!
The netherbeast persists with his persistence
Fangs bared, claws unsheathed, pocket knife sharpened
Again and again pelting me
Like an epileptic hailstorm (no, wrong image—)
Like a dyspeptic snowstorm (nah, that’s not right—)
Like an unantiseptic brainstorm (yes!)
The demon blathers menacingly:
"Would you like them here or there?"

2+3

I am assaulted!
Qoth the demon, "Would you like them in a house? With
A mouse? In a box? In a fox? A car? A tree?
Cakerakedollwallglassgrassdoghillbillplatestate
WHAM!
(Damn space bar. Break on me, will you?)
Do you like them? Huh? Huh? Huh?"
Relentlessly attacks this barbaric creature my every sense
Till am I choiceless, nowhere have to turn I
Succumb I.
(x-2)^2+2=18

Before me it sits
The devil’s ambrosia awaits my palate
Cholesterol-coated angry candy from hell
Anxious tripe demanding entrance
To its gastric nirvana: I bite, chew, swallow, digest
Suddenly I am falling...
Falling...
Falling...

Lucky #7

Falling...
Falling...
Falling...
Falling...

42 stanzas later...

Falling...
Falling...
I am awake! The anti-meal is consumed
Now part of my being
And partly on my being, having forgotten my bib
Upon my tongue, eerie sensations
Of delightful tastiness, of gourmetness
Sam-I-Am has shown me the way.

50

Sam-I-Am I am, and me he be
The avatars of green eggs and ham
Brothers of the breakfast spirit
Let Kellogg’s beware!

Randy Golden