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## Three Poems by Mark Marony

### Beccafico

They say that  
the Romans  
fatted geese  
and buntings  
on figs  
before glutting  
their guilty  
appetites.  
Not a bad last meal,  
this fruit  
descended from Jannah.

At the market, swollen  
purple bulbs of  
sweet velvet  
and syrup  
line up, six by six,  
in balsa wood crate-lets,  
like March's mail-order chicks,  
fresh to this world,  
waiting to be picked up  
at the post office.  
What a soft protest  
they make  
in the back room, under  
the artificial light.

In broad day light,  
in view of my neighbors  
and my God -  
no embroidered cloth  
to cover my head -  
I milk the full  
bursting fruit  
between my  
tongue and teeth  
until the flesh ruptures  
like the yolk of an egg,  
heady with  
honey and *eau de vie*.  
Mitterand should have been  
so guiltless.

### Cirque Calder De L'Univers

Somewhere Alexander Calder  
unpacks his suitcases of smallish acrobats,  
articulated chariots, and miles of life-giving

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strings and wires. This is the way the universe works, of course: a yank of a cord here, a twist of a coil there, and movement is born, or dies. And the audience applauds.

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## **Paper Speaks**

Your words make me heavy. The way you scatter them upon my cherished emptiness leaves me empty. First, you make me a proxy - for her or him or them - and then you make me an effigy, word-ripened for the flame.

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**Mark Marony** is a high school teacher and freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Fiddlehead Loop*, *Parent Express*, *Compass Rose*, and *Carved in Granite II: An Anthology of New Hampshire Writers*, among others. He lives with his artist-wife, Jessica, and their four children in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire.

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