

ISSN 0976 - 8165



THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

11th Year of Open Access

**Bi-Monthly Refereed and Peer-Reviewed
Open Access e-Journal**

Vol. XI, Issue-3 (June 2020)

Editor-In-Chief : Dr. Vishwanath Bite
Managing Editor : Dr. Madhuri Bite



www.the-criterion.com



AboutUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

ContactUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

EditorialBoard: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



ISSN 2278-9529
Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
www.galaxyimrj.com

The Quest

Mark Mansfield

The death of dogma is the birth of morality.

—Immanuel Kant

Like corpses, cultures rot. Their old wives' tales
seem harmless, but mark a blood-dimmed, backward route.
The only quest is life; this Earth, our Grail.

Like ghouls, traditions feed on thoughts' entrails,
pillory reason, and shackle the wings of doubt.
Like corpses, cultures rot. Their old wives' tales?

A cuckoo sang before a nightingale;
some mirror cracked; or bronze sky mumbled drought.
The only quest is life; this Earth, our Grail.

Our home is dying, and we with it. Life's Braille
cannot be read by these who blindly bow
to corpses. Cultures rot. Their old wives' tales

express a darker purpose. Once unveiled,
all myths race back to hold the same redoubt.
The only quest is life; this Earth, our Grail.

One chance, or maybe none to turn about
the status quo of billions of devout
to corpses—cultures, rotted from death's dead tales.
Our only quest is life; this Earth, our Grail.

Bionote:

Mark Mansfield is the author of two full-length collections of poetry, *Strangers Like You* (2008, revised 2018, Chester River Press) and *Soul Barker* (2017, Chester River Press). His poems have appeared in *The Adirondack Review*, *Anthropocene Poetry*, *Bayou*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Canary*, *Fourteen Hills*, *Iota Magazine*, *The Journal*, *London Grip*, *Magma Poetry*, *Measure*, *Salt Hill Journal*, *Tulane Review*, *Unsplendid*, and elsewhere. He was a recent Pushcart Prize nominee. Currently, he lives in upstate New York.