

Anne Pelletier

EACH SEPARATE ANGUISH

over a question of whether the nanny did or did not taste of
Turkish delight after completing her sentence to stand in the yard
without food & without sleep for three days

awfulness aplenty the limits of
my cruelty may they never
be tested

stench
burning flesh [corpses on the field]

[Iliad Book 10 Odysseus & Diomedes telling Dolon he will come
to no harm only to lop off his head]

Hannibal's wife slapping

long-lined, her body; precise features
international admiration for her beauty

["It is an undisputed fact that both man and woman are human beings.
Woman eats and drinks as man eats and drinks. Woman feels hunger and thirst
as man feels hunger and thirst." Muammar Qaddafi, Green Book Part 3]

She'd hit me if her children cried

I may not know all of what I am capable
what I may let pass
but I *know* I could not

as Aline did
wife of Hannibal
(who is in exile)

son of Muammar
(dragged from the drain pipe)
(betrayed of his people)

over this question of Turkish delight Aline
ordered her servants

yes, Shweyga Mullah did come into the kitchen did drink juice—

she called me a liar

to bind Shweyga Mullah's limbs tape her mouth
to boil water to—

it was too much pain

(that scalds me now — that scalds me now)

alive, fragile
her life, ruined

(Aline is in exile)

(I fear I am unable to write out the word)
p-o-u-r
I push down each letter now
appearing as the answer in a game of hangman

Note: Except for *betrayed of his people*, the italicized lines are quotations of Shweyga Mullah as reported by Jon Lee Anderson. The poem's title and the line "that scalds me now — that scalds me now" are from Emily Dickinson #193.