

Genesis, The Diving Line

>From a dense forest of tall dark pinewood
Mount Ida rises like an island.
Within a hidden cave, nymphs had kept a child:
Hermaphroditus, son of gods, so afraid of their love.
As the dawn creeps up the sky,
The hunter caught sight of a doe.

In desire for conquest,
He found himself within a glade he'd not beheld before.

HERMAPHRODITUS:

Where are you, my father?
Give wisdom
to your son.

NARRATOR:

Then he could go no farther.
Now lost, the boy was guided
by the sun.

And as his strength began to fail,
He saw a shimmering lake.
a shadow in the dark green depths
Disturbed the strange tranquility.

SALMACIS:

The waters are disturbed.
Some creature has been stirred.

NARRATOR:

The waters are disturbed.
The naiad queen Salmacis
has been stirred.

As he rushed to quench his thirst,
A fountain spring appeared before him.
And as his heated breath brushed through the cool mist
A liquid voice called, "Son of gods, drink from my spring."
The water tasted strangely sweet.
Behind him the voice called again.

He turned and saw her, in a cloak of mist alone,
And as he gazed, her eyes were filled with the darkness of the lake.

SALMACIS:

We shall be one.

We shall be joined as one.

NARRATOR:

She wanted them as one.

Yet he had no desire to be one.

HERMAPHRODITUS: Away from me, cold-blooded woman.

Your thirst is not mine.

SALMACIS: Nothing will cause us to part.

Hear me, O Gods!

Unearthly calm ascended from the sky
And then their flesh and bones were strangely merged.
Forever to be joined as one.

The creature crawled into the lake.

A fading voice was heard:

"And I beg, that all who touch this spring

May share my fate."

SALMACIS:

We are the one.

We are the one.

NARRATOR:

The two are now made one.

Demi-god and nymph are now made one.

Both had given everything they had.

A lover's dream had been fulfilled at last.

Forever still beneath the lake.