

## Black Pearl

by ryall *Friday, Mar 23 2012, 11:40am*

international / poetry / post

diving deeper  
and remaining underwater  
longer than usual --  
my lungs inexplicably  
bearing the extra burden  
of supplying oxygen  
to my body --  
i noticed a small overhang  
which had escaped  
my attention previously

[this dive was to  
change my life]

an unusual shell,  
caught my eye  
one that stood apart  
from the usual gifts  
the sea offers

surfacing with my prize  
i gently pried open  
the shell  
-- almost the size  
of a dinner plate --  
to my delight  
it contained a natural  
black pearl the size of a marble

island people believe  
these pearls are possessed  
of magical properties,  
and are able to bestow  
strange powers on the fortunate  
or unfortunate possessor of the  
pearl -  
whatever the case may be

i recall being enthralled  
by its silvery grey colour  
and the odd luminescence,  
it possessed

something i hadn't noticed  
initially

weeks passed  
until one moonless night  
i was seized by the urge  
to night dive;  
something not usually done  
by novices or professionals  
without artificial light sources  
and extra equipment

i entered the warm black  
tropical sea naked  
and allowed myself to be carried  
by the impulse

to my amazement,  
i discovered i was able to see clearly  
in the depths of a moonless night,  
though the light that defined  
the world beneath  
was strange, ghostly  
akin to the soft luminescence  
of the pearl

to my further amazement  
i was able to detect  
things usually unseen,  
hidden,  
even from trained eyes

a whole new universe  
opened up for me  
i also seemed to be invisible  
to the dangerous denizens  
of the deep that hunted in  
the night

years have passed since  
i earned my living  
from the sea, though  
i continue to search  
secret places  
for 'treasure'

the pearl is with me constantly --

i remain invisible  
to the predators  
of the day and night

<http://cleaves.zapto.org/news/story-3100.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-231.html>