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"Secret Signs" & "Of Ecstasy and Touch"

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Secret Signs

The sun is made of red wine,
and the rainbow of grapefruits
is enough to sound like
the whole spectra of life.
The sun's rays extend their fingers
deeper and deeper everywhere.
Tiny bubbles on the surface
of red wine hide more than reveal.
Her fingers are holding the chalice,
while her long red nails glitter
with secret signs.—Having
no idea of semiotics, she scratches
her skin & bites her fingernails.—
Some particles of nail polish
secretly find a way into her chalice
in a ritual of hide-and-seek.
And then—her gaze stretches out
upon the sun wider & wider.

Of Ecstasy and Touch

Butterflies keep
landing on her floral
dress. Experimenting

with touch is the most
ecstatic thing
they can do.
Butterflies really want us
to experiment with touch.
They want us all to unlock
our bodies and to interact
with each other. They want
us all to learn holography,
while coding ecstasy
and moving anti-clockwise.

Bioprofile of the author

Ali Znaidi (b.1977) lives in Redeyef, Tunisia. He is the author of several chapbooks, including *Experimental Ruminations* (Fowlpox Press, 2012), *Moon's Cloth Embroidered with Poems* (Origami Poems Project, 2012), *Bye, Donna Summer!* (Fowlpox Press, 2014), *Taste of the Edge* (Kind of a Hurricane Press, 2014), *Mathemaku x5* (Spacecraft Press, 2015), and *Austere Lights* (Locofo Chaps: an imprint of Moria Books, 2017). His translations into English have appeared in *The Lifted Brow*, *InTranslation*: a web-exclusive section of *The Brooklyn Rail*, *International Poetry Review*, *Lunch Ticket*, *Columbia Journal*, and elsewhere. For more, visit aliznaidi.blogspot.com .