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Naos Explains Everything Via Crumbs

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Naos Explains Everything
Via Crumbs

poems

begin
Introduction

Hansel and Gretel and Naos walked into the woods...

...which is to say we're treading on familiar ground, fables, proverbs, aphorisms, crumbs...

...come to think of it, I believe this should start: One day a poet, an editor, and two other editors walked into a submission together and Naos started his explaining...

...crumb to think of it...

...then Naos turned to the kids and said: You're really making a mess of things, but at least the birds behind us are happy...

...and one editor said: There should be a poem called Naos Explains Everything...

...and the outcrumb is Naos staring at his kitchen table until everything explains itself to him...

...a poet, a reader, and Naos walk into an introduction...

...and so I continue to follow where Naos leads to...

...and you're welcome to crumb along...

José Angel Araguz, somewhere in the woods of western Oregon, 2017
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chapbook
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(1)

a crumb becomes so broken from a whole—
from the meeting of mother father crumb we
(ii)
cremated or buried, all
are crumbs

one leaves behind

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(iii)
crumbs cling to lips
some
fall some hold—
were you to look down from the sky
each one of us
a crumb holding,
a crumb falling
crumbs are cleared away
from hands from table

a symbol of being in the way scattered

at the end, we clear away—
(v)

whatever food the eyes are made of
is eaten by joys by sorrows

the crumbs spill across the face, a table
overrun with light
rain clouds clearing their table of crumbs
(vii)

a crumb breaks off becomes crumb;
a crumb breaks off from that

—who remains crumb?
there is the thinker who saw infinity
in the paring down of a thing
by half and then that half by half
and on, believing you could never reach nothing,
there would always be a half—
the problem of Xeno breaks down
the problem of crumbs
(ix)
the ant is Atlas under a crumb—
Atlas carries the crumb of the earth—
Poetry as a matter of crumbs:
hinting at the food of experience
from what little falls behind.
Had the men writing the Bible waited longer, it might have been, not ashes to ashes, dust to dust, but rather from crumbs to crumbs.
Salt: a rock ground in order to crumb to taste.
Skin flakes: crumbs from the body.
(xiv)
You can eat crumbs sure, but — are they ever enough?
In the morning, we clear crumbs from our eyes
left from the long meal of a dream.
crumb another word
from the body for the body
The way a seed and becomes more, separates from fruit
the crumb grows into taste
on the tongue.
In Spanish, crumb goes as *miga*, is carried by *hormiga*.

diminished in *enemiga*
and befriended in *amiga*—
(xix)

dust motes in sunlight,
crumbs made of light—
crumbs are what is left
when one is done—

the table of this page
catches what I cannot finish—
(xxi)

hoping to keep track of
where we have been,

we leave a trail of crumbs—
all we see and want and
fail to remember
leaves us
when we turn around
José Angel Araguz is a CantoMundo fellow and the author of six chapbooks as well as the collections Everything We Think We Hear (Floricanto Press) and Small Fires (FutureCycle Press). His poems, prose, and reviews have appeared in RHINO Poetry, New South, and Queen Mob’s Tea House. He runs the poetry blog The Friday Influence and teaches English and creative writing at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. For more Naos on Right Hand Pointing, click here.