

The Feast of Nemesis

by Saki

" ' it s a dgoo ghint ahtt ainst

aeilnntv ' s ady ahs ddeoppr

otu fo egouv ' " adis mrs

abcehknrtuy ; " ahtw hitw

achimrsst adn enw aery adn
* * *

caackeaagaddaheaadeaahanadnt
ohlenfibgooedtnhagstdroppdi
thriotmnorsn wihywhrs se
vit stnvs u ysnt irt
ut s u y w mt

aeerst ' not ot aekps fo

abdhirsty ' eehrt aer eiqtu

eghnou abceeeemnr adsy as it

is ' i deirt ot aev eflmsy

belortu at achimrsst by jstu

deginns eflorsw ot all my
* * *

bandbdaraedcbeaeaaaaabfeaesit
eoteherelemeoinceadllsijf t
eiotglgyfmothorspeeemosmls
inruhnt iotwhrsstmrk qu tu
srsuir nt tr sto s yy y
ts i s tr v y

definrs ' btu it dlnouw t korw ;

deegrрту ahs eeelnv hot ehossu

adn abotu hirtty adeegnrrs ' os

it dlouw aehv been cdiilorsuu

ot dens eflorsw ot ehr ' adn

illmy ahs jstu aderstt a
* * *

aedeabdafbaheebaeaahddiaaldreo
fiiledddshaseiletenddnchnosks
gnlsnnhethjtirsstgrreeteroous
iortoulu lousrtyvnuren tusu s
mr wruo tv tt wo tho w
tt y s uw o ir

filorst ' s hops ' os it asw

aellquy otu fo eht einogstu

eehrt ' eht erssst fo aghinv ot

cddeei in a hrruy ahtw ot egiv

ot deegrрту adn illmy jstu

ehnw i ghottu i d got eht
* * *

decadetihdagafdihdlfaeaahegite
ehegeitrheehnermeogohjting vo
fheilytnosshprssiwhttstion
tlonir tout or tso iutwtot
tourls s u ot y ly us
wq r u tu q vs

ehlow einogstu ceilny ffo my
dimn ceellmopty deinru my
achimrsst' adn ehnt eht afluw
mnnooty fo eht eelrstt fo
ahknt : \ ahknt ouy os chmu for
oruy ellovy eflorsw' it asw os
* * *
chadecmaeleaedeneceledfaafflo
mhniklnmelfafhotheinehmmcfmuor
mhnlsouophinkywiensoioufhsys
tiontsovssttnl ylrsttrs ow
woro tqy ty ol out y t w
your tn ru y

dgoo fo ouy ot hiknt fo em'
fo ceorsu in eht aijmorty fo
aces i adhn t' ghhottu abotu
eht ceelinprst at all' ehirt
aemns eerw dnw in my ilst fo
' eelopp how mstu not be eflt
* * *
caecoeceeaddmohahiaghbeabefff
gaedpleiheenosnehmajlofiheio
nfmerofsphinttstinnkoritleor
ohoesui riontt ttnolytltmout
tosos r wou u t oum st t
p w y w t y

otu' fi i dersttu ot
beeegimmnrr ehmt eehrt dlouw
be emos afluw inss fo
iimnooss"
" eht belortu is' " adis cilosv
ot his antu' " all eehst adsy
* * *
beheibeabfelhaiedhaedecdaids
oeiemiefiigtriellssefe wlovi
omnhominunlutusmntthis ouys
rotsssoount st oo
tt s trr w s tr
u

fo eijnrstuv abceeemmnrr ahpr
os eeilnprsstty no eno acepst
fo ahmnu aenrtu adn eeilnrty
eginor eht ehort' ahtt is hwy
ehty bceemo os cefnoprrtuy adn
aacfiiilrt' at achimrsst adn
* * *
afehebacaeeaeahecambhacaaraaand
ifnifecihienslemendoacereecp
ogtinieioleotoepenfremtishldt
oh ormrnsmttryrhrisnntispny
so purstsn ur ortunn o ywr
tr y t u t t tt s y

enw aery ouy aer bddeeelmnno

adn acdeegnuru by ceinnnootv

ot dens gghinsu aeegmsss fo

ciimopstt dgilloow adn

eelrsv aceffinot ot eelopp

hmow ouy dlouw accelrsy aks ot
* * *

aedieeaocaecadbcbagdeaednto
neomeicrgffgedgeielcaldnnie
ohrsildtirogidiomemoeleopl
sntvmneuuohlrsnlronnestok
tow yno wsuoo wy ssope so
wp ys y u t t vy

chlnu elnssu emos eno eels adh

adefil ouy at eht alst emmnot

fi ouy aer ginppsu at a

aaenrrsttu no enw aery s eev

ouy aer deeimprtt adn cdeeeptx

ot ijno adhns adn gins for
* * *

faicadeahanaipaedgaaagalfecead
ienjainalerdnsned ladremoeehed
lfslerrrnesmstohe oetespernt
routhuuyoe ot pie sin xsmvt
to you pt su tmn yns o
yu o ru s tnw nt

adlu agln ensy hitw aegnrrsst

hmow ouy aehv eenrv eens

beefor adn eenrv antw ot ees

aagin btu no cceeiln is

adellow in eht eiooppst

cdeiinort

* * *

aadceaagdaneeeeceaceeenaneers
agfenedbihsneelipenhiseo sge
ahlirlinn thvnovionstir
bilmwtoont vn rwprst ts
dloo y uu yo wt t
wuro

"eiooppst cdeiinort ahtw

eiooppst cdeiinort deeiqr

mrs abcehknrtuy

eehrt is no elottu for

adegimnorstt oruy eefgilns

adorstw eelopp hmow ouy ilmpsy
* * *

dehandhaaddibccihemfeehangedly
momeoeieceneeroinn folerimp
ooporisiekingettlot yorisis
tpporstrptioloutoo qu t
rpsstts npruywur wu
tw t or y

aehtlot' ahttt is aellry eht

cginry deen fo oru demnor

aciiiiilnostv' jstu hiknt how

jlloy it dlouw be fi a

cdeeginors ady eerw est aaprt

for eht aginpy ffo fo dlo

* * *

ceaigeaeaaadadjbeeaffaekaeart
cicinhineddildfsoefelhdnldhow
follllhispeonng ofrimleorhp
joronistthotoi urr ooittn
lovttt tiyu y wst tsy
rry y w u

ceorss adn deggrsu' a ady ehnw

eno cdlou aly eeflnos otu ot

be acefgllruy cdeiiintvv ot a

acefllruy adeerrstu ilst fo

eelopp how mstu not be elt

ffo' i beeemmrr ehnw i asw at

* * *

baeacacaddlaeadgeddcabdalahfan
ccegeleefelembeieeeeefieeteooat
oefofoilnhmgmuonnnhlliitwos e
oforpsllruolrusrrrsitn ouytt
snr ruu w try st so t s t
p y y vu w v w

a aeiprtv chloos ew adh eno

ady' eht alst admnoy fo eht

emrt i hiknt it asw'

accdeenorst ot eht eeelmnsttt

fo defsu adn deggrsu' fo

ceorsu ew ddi not aaceeipprt

* * *

aanfecaeeaacdgmldaapeadceaeet
cepmeedeeddhinohdashoefihen
cfrriihshiditoooneesprflome
dourstrttlnktorttgey to tnt
ooyt u t ns tuwvs t
t v w s

it as chmu as it ddeersv'

abceesu' aefrt all' any ady fo

eht emrt cdlou be desu for

ahtt eopprsu' illst' fi eno

adh acdehisst a aellmrs boy

for begin ceehky eeksw beefor'

* * *

baaabeamcacaddaaedaeadfbaaeref
fecaceengcfeeeeibileleeredfo o
hhdtshirphoeerktilleseivfdny
ihe tpmstishl stsmkskny eoy
tor usru osts y wu lr or
tt u u s o

eno asw aalswy deeimprtt no
ahtt ady ot acellr eht deeiops
ot his emmory by acghiinsst
him aagin' ahtt is ahtw eht
cefhnr acll cceginorrsttu eht
ceimr."
* * *
chahaaacallahabaechahaedigeode
fiemcdaialorrecoilmihcienhgthe
hnenegsmemotrecplrtrsetipin
ooitih yntw ystyns ttttstns
trm ws y s wut o
tr

" i dhlosu acll it
cceginorrsttu eht
ehimnpstu' " adis mrs'
abcehknrtuy' " adn' ahnowy' i
dno t ees how ouy cdlou
cdeinortu a emssty fo
* * *
deachdmbdcaalgaidecafldow i
ihcikencercinlaidmmonyh
pinonhseethosssne os
rnnrooten t wyyoh ru
totssulu y tt
u t uru tu

eiiimprtv bchloosy aceeegnvn
inot cdeiiilsv adltu efil' ew
aehnv t gnoortuw oru ainopsss'
btu ew aer deoppssu ot aehv
adeelnr how ot eekp ehmt
hiintw cilrstty cdeoorsu
* * *
baaeicdaeeicedoabecoreafaace
heihieishlichlpkdedrthegeinne
iitmneivosgrowldelttlihevows
lntonntvortstoyneop vonms
prtrwt ruwsto osou ous
wuv t up uy p s

iilmst."
fo ceorsu eht ghint dlouw
aehv ot be deno efilrtuyv adn
eillopty' " adis cilosv' " eht
achmr fo it dlouw be ahtt it
dlouw eenrv be cefnoprtrtuy
* * *
caaeeleberdaedlcibeicealdaed
hhfidonfsetsbeepdlfgishlrthn
lilimsorve thiuterntntootyit
pomlttoy i on fuou vtuy
wourt u wo h rv w
ov

eikl eht ehort ghint now for

aceinnst' ouy asy ot eflorsuy

i mstu hosw eht beelswy emos

aeinnottt at achimsrst' ehty

eerw dikn ot ader beeirt at

behmnoortuu' adn ouy dens
* * *

aekeacedhahecaadibbaeiaenafer
birenkhenoudeahseelsnerdelf
iisenninstoo rheiwngртоothomo
lntmusiou tt thnr tmuysswsty
wour tmo tw sry to yu s
t t t t y t yo

ehmt a aacdelnr' adn adily for

isx adsy aefrt achimsrst eht

aelm beelwy akss eht aeeflm

beelwy fi ehs ahs bdeeeemrr

ot ahknt ouy for eht aacdelnr

ouy enst ehmt' ellw'
* * *

mabedaebaaeeaaahaeahdmcabaldaor
seeleancfefhdfkchlhetdaienedr
thlmhanillhnerorsrie ealeree
tiutseyk totesrs tle femlthf
wox w s ysum w tns mms y
yo y t y r

aalnprstt ahtt adei ot eht

ehort adn emor ahmnu deis fo

oruy aenrtu' adn asy ot

eflorsuy : \ entx adhrstuy is

eeimnss ady ; ahtw no aehrt acn

i do ot ehost dioosu eelopp
* * *

ieaereaadaeneahaidaasdadehecan
nodesiafdhmoeandihan eaophef
oohnsnlnnrosheodtmen pertio
trmospltttytrwthtoor siytls
ytur to u xt usus to
y ur s uy to

entx door how adem chsu an

abdrsu fssu ehnw ginp agny bit

ehirt egnostuy cdhil ?' ehnt

ouy d egt pu aflluw y aelry no

eht adellott ady adn bcilm

eorv inot ehirt adegnr adn dgi
* * *

abeiadgeonedeaadaidecaaanbig
neerddlfrsgeodecgaldgchahd dit
ohetrinottshshmfhelduelile on
thsurloot thwirnuinn nyrmg
tou you up twy lrs tnn
yv x tu w p y ny

for efflrstu no ehirt einnst

cortu hitw a dgoo adegginnr

fkor' cghinoos' fo ceorsu'

ahtt aprt fo eht cortu ahtt

asw cdeeenrs fmor abeinoorstv

by eht aellru behssu' ouy
* * *

baakhcaeahealfbedceaodeeaagon
chrsecfelednghomfebrerenenis
forttprhfnoe gnoohgcrtrohni
fosttruioorf ooushoirutsitt
tou wltusi tr t oss ytn
wy rt s u vu

dlnouw t dfin any efflrstu btu

ouy dlouw dfin a aegrt aceep'

chsu as no amnotu fo eenprst

ggiinv cdlou eerv beostw."

" i dhlnoosu t' adis mrs

abcehknrtuy' ghotu ehr air fo
* * *

ghacdanbdfaddaaagbeaefeaachobf
sichhescdnidmehergdehfoleeneut
tiuikgulnolinountihfmrpeirt
woulnnuloryn tvnu orsrrwss
yovswo tuu t oy r uts
u o s t t

eoprstt ddenosu a bit cdefor';

" i dhlosu eefl aehrtrt a morw

for dgino chsu a ghint."

" ouy aaeeggrtx eht eoprw fo

aaehlpuv chhiw a morw dlouw be

abel ot bginr inot alpy in eht
* * *

abheaeaabgeeaedaahbelaaeicddbe
filedoildoficheaaoeimgforlefhe
pooseoolgrhncintthinowornom
upothstngwindl rthpp w uort
rru tu s sret worr y w
y vx uug t

deiilmt eimt aaabeillv' adis

cilosv' fi ouy ptu in a

enorsstuu ent eimnstu hitw a

aellry eflsuu fkor' eht elrstu

ghotu ot eggsstu eht

aeinooprst fo an allnsuuy
* * *

ceaeaedonefefaaaikabieaaleaadt
liehisiosifegefihnhelheirhsil
olgiltousinglompntnesnwltu
opmlnututstonsorutusu y
rtorty suuy ut ut t
survt v u

aeflmrstu elmo or a abdegr in

-----"
a hrruy

"-----
ehty ghimt egssu i adh deno

-----"
it' adis mrs' abcehknrtuy

"-----"
fo ceorsu ehty dlouw' adis

-----; "
cilosv ahtt dlouw be afhl
* * *

aafecoaidehageeohaakbabgaafdn
clhterfighmoheworlclbadhdlie
iohuirmrltmrluyssod dedueoni
mtovrsuus tts tu i en rr
ts ysy t w u h sy

-----'
eht aacfiinosstt fo eht ghint'

jstu as ouy eikl eelopp at

achimrsst ot know ahtw

-----'
eenprsst or acdrs ouy ev enst

ehmt' eht ghint dlouw be chmu

-----'
aeeirs ot aegmn' fo ceorsu'
* * *

caeiamaefaacagdsoefacbeahecg
eheieashoomciagewofhdheermenh
jhemsntisorhlikewpolpleutsint
phrsstss toninn uotto su
trst tttty t tkoo wou v t
tus u nr y

ehnw ouy eerw no adlortuwy

defilnry emrst hitw eht bcejot

fo oruy deiikls' ahtt deegry

-----'
eilltt aegns abikl' for

-----'
aceinnst' how hiknst fo

-----'
ghinnot btu ehr dfoo' it dlouw
* * *

ffeadcabiehebeafkhafaedebdec
ihiegednelhelhindhthfrlejult
lisnlugterikonikstogtowoy
nnttnoy usrmsrwiootwoi y
ottour wtso t tu r
wr y y w t r

be eigtu eilmpts ot aks ehr ot

a cciinp in emos dilw addlnoow

opst adn elos ehr jstu beefor

-----'
chlnu asw deersv' ehnw ouy

dfnou ehr aagin eervy elmors

fo dfoo cdlou aehv been aeent
* * *

aenccadaciaeaeaeaeembeaeaed
bfofdihcrligdroibeknhedlen
fopihnidsonleohetvjenwoefoln
lpunoone sompvhevwlst oortro
ou qu te ssm rs yos t
s t w u s n uy ru

---."
pu

"
it dlouw eeiqruru no adinorry

ahmnu aegrstty ot elos aegns

abikl ehnw cehlmnou asw

eiimmnt : in acft' i dno t

beeeliv it cdlou be deno"

beaaeehdaicgfacebeidanagnary
bilikonlenreoncdeolosdodines
hlminvstittequiho nowere t
immin utr luulrt n osn
upt w w n y t o
u

"
ehnt aehv all eht ehort

egsstu' eelopp hmow ouy

deiikls' adn elos eht

cehlmnou it cdlou aehv been

enst by accdeint in eht gnorw

cdeiinort"

deeccbeaaacadcnscdmhaherbeeng
dihehehncidleothenhehe wron
gineikiopenileothitotoe
ltnlnso veop l ulo tvu
surstty t l w y
ust

"
it dlouw be a aghlsty

cciiinp' adis mrs

abcehknrtuy

"
for ehmt' btu not for ouy"

adis cilosv ; "
ouy dlouw aehv

adh an aelry adn cfgimnoort

haacachbaiabdamdhaoffldthage
pacdicledrbeuangocsmmloryinv
sfdnkenemrli tynstwoor ou
thirwnulussy ou tuy
io o ov y r
it t

chlnu beefor ouy aderstt' adn

ouy cdlou eimopr v eht accinoos

by egiimmnot in adeilt eht

eimst fo eht giimmss

abenqtu eht belorst begnruw

adn eht egg aaeimnosy' adn

aadcebedgeegabnedaaaeebaaidn
bnemehefehgelmlioneegeelcchdno
bonmhnoifnhmmoissinhniotne
itngsotlooinprostnrirtw urg
luu t t tti you stts s
yy u u r yv t

eht crruy ahtt asw ot aehv
been adeeht in a acfghin dhis
aegns abikl dlouw be deiilorsu
glno beefor ouy got ot eht
ilst fo einsw' adn in eht glno
aeilnrtv fo agiintw' beefor
* * *
aeecbaaaedeaaiaacbfabeaedeohg
bgeerhbfoiehinuaddgendefheions
ihngsoeltif soulgnhioihgieisu
linn uelwok wo tiotttonhorl
lnst vfryrn wt wns tlvr
tot r t y t

ehly adh eiqtu aabddenno ehop
fo eht chlnu ginnrtu pu' ouy
cdlou cdeinu ehmt ot alpy
illsy aegms' chsu as ahtt
cdiiiot eno fo eht dlor
amory s deinnr aprty' in
* * *
caeldeaadeceehaaaadlneanhope
idilhhdichofucbhegoohatyou
mfloriglmneitruéhino pldy
ohuot inonnn s pmrns tpd
siyty s uqs t rn ty uri
to y uu t t t

chhiw eervy eno ahs ot cehoos
eht aemn fo a dhis adn do
eghimnost efiltu ehnw it is
acdell otu in hist aces ehty
dlouw abblopry brstu inot
aerst ehnw ehirt dhis is
* * *
caacdaeeebabaedbhahacaichihee
seeedihefnthieehdiehdidoosy
thilhmngofuiniishssnineots
thln poory lnruistnoss
womrs wrut oy trs t t
wou t v t w t

deemnot it dlouw be a
aeehlvy cciinp."
mrs' abcehknrtuy asw eilnst
for a emmnotⁱ ehs asw abblopry
agikmn a aelmnt ilst fo eht
eelopp ehs dlouw eikl ot
* * *
faaiaehaceebacdeiaabefaebably
hekpegladeeinilhldkeoilohé
mentinmehkinouloulisspotnt
meovlonommntury wst tr
mor nt s p tt s w
prs y w w

eiintv ot eht deku ehmpuy

cciinp' eelnprsty ehs adeks :

" adn ahtt dioosu gnouy amn'

adlow bellpuy' how is aalswy

cddgilno ephilms aehv ouy

ghhottu fo aghinnty ahtt eno
* * *

cacdgchaobeaeedfheahegahaade
iaddiengofidenlhighehalkens
phldlhplphleiotlknoinmamrey
tiniottrhnytsyosus pouny
wnontt u tms uu y vt ysw
ovu sy w u t

cdlou do ot him^{?"} deeilntvy

ehs asw beggiinnn ot ees eht

beiiiilopssst fo eeimnss ady'

" fi eehrt asw aghinnty eikl a

aeglur abceenorsv fo eht

aefilstv' adis cilosv' adlow
* * *

ceedaalbbgaaiafceeiedeedeadaeo
fegliadleeiehianclemfgehikald
ghnsibeoitoenndngnhoisiltley
pistrhirotsirvinytooistn th
sos tvl wss m tvns s wy
ou w s s o v

dlouw be in chsu addemn ahtt

ouy dlouw aehv ot abeekps him

eeksw abdeefhnor' adn eenv

ehnt' fi eehrt eerw an aest

dinw bgilnow or a cdlou or otw

in eht ksy eh ghimt be oot
* * *

ieeddbbedihaeacadadaeadaahaimo
thekhebefihehemhehblandeenhtw
winlsoifkonerenigrmbnetkott
wnunw llwtngsorto endpevor
wout uo yrhu w e ou os
yo s t s t

aceflru fo his ceioprsu efls

ot cemo otu' it dlouw be

aehrrt jlloy fi ouy cdlou elru

him inot a achkmmo in eht

acdhorr' jstu aenr eht opst

eehrw eehrt is a apssw enst
* * *

caccamdhaeahaifaaeaicebedelfre
haeenejoflhiimeckcidosheelt
ohmherloojsimnorouhstlnosu
rihfrt oluytstpousnuusp t
totriut r s yr to s
wr o u w p

-----' a -----
eervy emmsu a abceflmoort

achkmmo no a amrw aefnnoort

dlouw aaelp ot his deilnot

aesst' adn ehnt' ehnw eh asw

eggintt dorswy' a degihlt

eefsu hnortw inot eht enst
* * *
eaeedcahaeaashanaiafeedabeeas
famlempdmdltiarcolfehnedlnt
gesmeskunnen teth mhgnreeon
hosri s onor wn m shinthltw
tutto t poww yo o tiortno
wvuty rr w t os

----- bginr eht apssw otu in

an adgiinnt amss' adn ehty

dlouw noos dfin a ehmo aawy

fmor ehmo no adlow s aft

bdoy' it aekst emos dgino ot

egt otu fo a achkmmo in a
* * *
aediddbgeaaaehaaaacadeaaean
bnoldhimifgfihamldehnifnawio
fotlnuionnnknmdsmmokomitg ty
goumo oron otnesoospsonuh y
wouy stot t sw s s o t
wr t w t

-----"
hrruy

" ehty ghimt ginst him ot

adeht' " deoprstt mrs

abcehknrtuy

" adlow is eno fo ehost eelopp

how dlouw be elmnoorsuy
* * *
deacdemdbhbeeeiedmhimetoepole
hhaehonigronesnfgthoslyp
thalkouiprotstonr mrs
wthrw ls t to ous
uoty u y
wr y

-----"
deimopr by adeht' adis

; " cilosv btu fi ouy ddin t

antw ot go as afr as ahtt' ouy

cdlou aehv emos etw arstw

adery ot adhn' adn est it
* * *
caaddseagbaadeaahdasdadatt you
cenlithdvdubundieanetseihat
ilorovoo eysomftrou stidw
rmpy t h ts f w stri
wouv o y t n

aghilt denru eht achkmmo at
eht aems eimt ahtt eht eefsu
asw hnortw inot eht enst' eht
ekmos dlouw eekp all btu eht
most aiilmntt fo eht apssw
* * *
aageaieidaieeeeeaaehbafpaeee
mhikhhmlnlmdkthfthelmeckushe
slotsmrounenntoh hhmness sth
tms ttwowntirt op tlt out tt
wos u t t t w t

jstu deiostu eht ggiinnst
eilm' adn as glno as adlow
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