

# The Birth of Venus

by [Richard Kuslan](#) (July 2018)



*Birth of Venus*, attributed to Noel Nicolas

**Time heeds his** Mother's cry  
To stab and slice the Sky  
Who upon Her fixed His sight  
And with Him brought the Night.

His blade with jagged teeth  
Dismembers stem and sheath  
Which scatter on the wave  
Afloat and gently laved.

While from the ocean wails  
Chorines of nymphic peals:  
For from immortal flesh

Sea foam wells a-gush.

On tides which carry home  
Spread spawn upon the loam  
To shape, from clay alone,  
Another of Her own.

As crimson veil repeals  
The orange dawn reveals  
That seed received in womb  
In Beauty springs, a-bloom.

A maidenhead sublime,  
A-root in Earth, divine:  
Extravagant and mighty  
Hail, Venus Aphrodite!

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**Richard Kuslan** is an admirer of Donne, Sheridan, Byron, LeFanu, Trollope, Orwell, Sacheverell Sitwell, Christopher Logue and Jean Sprackland, among (many) others in the English language. He marvels at meaning's fecundity when language is constrained by form and delights in the melodies that take to the air when the beautiful is read aloud.

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