THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 1 | 1992

The Sequel To Moby Dick Tony D'Arpino

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

The Prose Poem: An International Journal is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) for the Providence College Digital Commons. http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/

Tony D'Arpino

THE SEQUEL TO MOBY DICK

The whale is captured and brought back to the coastal house (temple/library/school) where the lower floors have been flooded. The ship is the *Mayflower* (!) but Columbus has led a mutiny against the Puritans.

When the whale is brought to this place, I am the communicator (or whale trainer). During a session in the pool, the whale rages at me. I almost drown twice but it is the whale who finally dies, a suicide. I really can't begin to describe the power of this event. The tragic whale and the failed communicator overlap in dreamtime, but the beauty of the flooded house, the beauty of the whale, is amazing, as are the ship's dual rudders, which are fashioned from exquisite stained glass. The ending is dark mathematics, a kind of entropic epic.