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Paul's Casting Out of Demons

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MATTHEW MILLER

PAUL'S CASTING OUT OF DEMONS

'SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO, THAT I MAY BE SAVED?'

-ACTS 16:30

There are hymns on the stones
of Philippi. Trickling through streets,
Greek or Aramaic, lilting. Uplifting
even before gates open and foundations
crumble, lime-soft, at God's behest.
Cries that these men are servants
of the Most High God, who declare
to us a way of salvation already
days silenced. A slave girl – not Judean;
a Scythian, or Gaul – feels the press
of limestone through the goatskins
beneath her, the dust-laced weight
of a Galatian trader on her hips.
Her voice exorcised, commanded
in the name of Jesus Christ

to come forth from her. Her part
performed, the audience drifting
to beatings and miracles
and a visit to Thessalonica.
Now only God is watching.