



Snakedance

William Shaw

The mouth of the cave
Opens in my dreams. I daren't
Enter its belly.

A gaudy showman
Offers enlightenment in
His dusty glasses.

'I won't harm you'. In
My own voice, a god commands:
Look in the mirror.

Temptation and fear;
Fine subject matter for a
Children's puppet show.

Through the carnival,
A loud, eerie shout rings out:
Submit to the snake.

Refuse to give in.
Find the still point, and banish
The monsters inside.