

## *Fat Tuesday*

ROSALYNDE VAS DIAS

tonight  
Jesus is in New Orleans  
warm with good red wine  
and hot French bread  
a girl keeps showing her flesh  
dark arms  
legs  
breasts  
he hands her rosary beads  
blesses sweaty shoulders  
with two kisses like moths

tomorrow  
the ashes and  
the fast –  
dust on the tongue  
and far away palms  
laid down  
\* thin green lashes on the path  
but tonight  
his hands are two blessings unbroken  
music rises through the night  
like a flock of doves  
he throws back his head  
the sky is a thin sheet  
floating  
flung over the child's body  
lightly on a hot night  
just before sleep