



: SONG 1

By Charles Olson

colored pictures
of all things to eat: dirty
postcards
And words, words, words
all over everything
No eyes or ears left
to do their own doings (all
invaded, appropriated, outraged, all senses
including the mind, that worker on what is
And that other sense
made to give even the most wretched, or any of us, wretched,
that consolation (greased
lulled
even the street-cars
song

Charles Olson, "The Songs of Maximus: 'Song 1'" from *The Maximus Poems*, published by the University of California Press. Copyright © 1983 by Charles Olson. Reprinted with the permission of The Literary Estate of Charles Olson.

Source: *The Maximus Poems* (University of California Press, 1987)

Poet Bio



Charles Olson grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts and spent summers in Gloucester, Massachusetts, which was to become the focus of his writing. In 1951, Olson became a visiting professor at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, working and studying here beside artists such as John Cage and Robert Creeley. He subsequently became rector of the college. Olson's ideas came to deeply influence a generation of poets, including writers such as Denise Levertov, Paul Blackburn, Ed Dorn and Robert Duncan.

More By This Poet

The Songs of Maximus: SONG 2

By Charles Olson

all
wrong...

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Sestina in Prose

By Katharine Coles

It was like climbing a mountain to those of us who'd climbed one. To the others, it was like, I suppose, something else. In other words, we let everybody find her own figure of speech....

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The Heart Shows No Signs

By Ru Freeman

The heart, the surgeon says, does not reveal
the small rifts, the hairline cracks which...

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By Charif Shanahan

When I say *But mother, Black or not Black,*
Of course you are polyethnic, your look does not change...

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By Ada Limón

I like the lady horses best,
how they make it all look easy,...

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