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DIALOCK

by

ISIDORE OKPEWHO

- He:* The shame of it!
The double shame of it!
- She:* And since when, may I ask
has the dystemper of my parents been
a leading care _____
- He:* What you fail to understand
girl
what you fail
to acknowledge
is that the female must pare her style
to the compulsions whereto_____
- She:* And that's another thing:
the fatuous insistence on compulsions
and the all-too-easy joy
the readiness
untaught by time and
the surge of new truths
to sacrifice one point of view
simply because a dumb tradition gave cheap blessing
the spill of libation and the unction
of blood that nobody needed:
must we
need we
be silenced again and again?
Does it not count that progress has been made
and the race has grown?
And another thing:
you still call me 'girl'
though I _____
- He:* I would not insist on titles
if I was you
but hear this:
Unshaken by time and novelties _____
and
did you never stop