

**FOR  
SAMULI  
LAMPINEN**

**CITY  
IN THE LAND OF  
NOD**

BY SAMULI LAMPINEN

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I

## KOLMANSKOP

*Diamonds are not eternal. Greed is a*

*permanent reminder of  
how weak we were.*

*I am still digging my mind  
to find a god  
who would be a humanist.*

*And  
there will be blood.*

## HANOI

*Only very few people ever want to  
be the first ones in something  
before afterwards.  
Even less ever will. To be free*

*from the slavery  
of other's freedom  
is enough for a warrior,*

*but too much for the soldiers  
who follow their flag  
and win all the battles in its name  
by sacrificing their freedom to it.*

## MOYALE

*The borderline between union and mayhem  
can be thin and clear sometimes  
like the bridge I crossed yesterday.*

*Fighting parties were withdrawn to the hills earlier  
and now security forces control the town  
with the sticks they use as they pleased  
among civilians.*

*At today's rate  
one mark of Abel  
equals one hundred and eight  
of Cain's.*

## BULAWAYO

*An unarmed police points in two directions.  
Either the country is safe as hell  
or his excellency the President thinks it's no longer  
a heaven for him.*

*Sun sets, sun rises.*

*Time sets*

*a constant euphemism for the shadows  
on one's face.*



## LUXOR

*If you desire to be a prophet  
in your own land,  
carve a statue  
and build a colorful home, paramount  
to all the religious kitsch;  
build a tomb*

*for the independence of thought.*

*Bones of the prophet  
testify that promised land  
will remain  
intact, will remain  
a mirage of permanence  
in the sand.*

## LÜDERIZ

*I am sitting in the shadow  
of the lighthouse  
looking at blind ships floating  
in the windy bay.*

*I don't try to find a difference  
between beach and desert anymore.  
Thinking of something which doesn't exist  
is a waste of time*

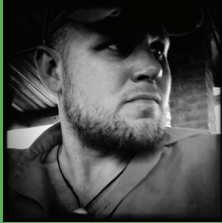
*in the abundance of space. Nothing less  
and the whole beauty of it.*

## AGRA

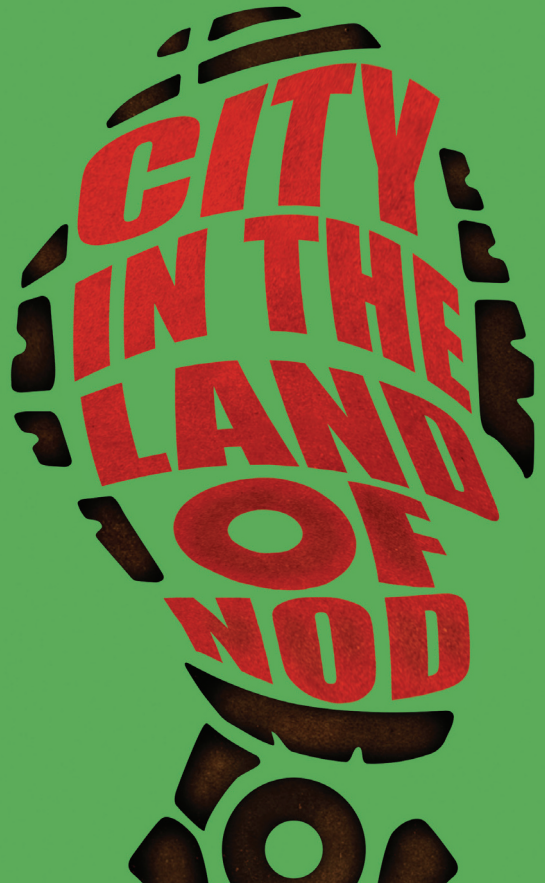
*Moment takes its time  
in the shadows of the nine planets,  
because it carts a sun  
for all of them.*

*Four white pillars  
in two rows,  
three colors – black*

*gnawing this camera  
to its very bone.*



SAMULI LAMPINEN IS A FINNISH BASED POET AND TRAVELER. CITY IN THE LAND OF NOD IS HIS FIRST COLLECTION OF POEMS IN ENGLISH – OR IN FINGLISH, AS HE HIMSELF DEFINES IT.



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