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Diana's Bimonthly: "Deduction

HELMUT HEISENBÜTTEL

THE DILEMMA OF BEING HIGH AND DRY

Translated by Rosmarie Waldrop



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The **D**ilemma of **B**eing **H**igh and **D**ry

Translated by Rosmarie Waldrop

THE DILEMMA OF BEING HIGH AND DRY

a man's high and dry and doesn't
give up hope of spotting land that's
the dilemma he's in but he doesn't
like what his cousin the water-
colorist does namely color the
water

the fact that he's high and dry is a
problem of a more general nature
and as long as he won't give up this
prejudice he'll tend to hallucinate
banks in place of slopes sea in place
of sand being all wet in place of
being all dry wherever he looks he
sees waterlevels and lightand-
shadowreflections and wherever he
listens he hears gulls screaming and
sirens

he's developed a liking for occupations like barge captain pilot sluice keeper coast guard lighthouse man and a dislike for sayings like water has no bounds keep above the water that threw cold water on my plans made his mouth water a scoundrel of the first water

although he detests nothing more than apologies it happens now and then that looking backwards or forwards he slips up and argues in a sort of apologetic way how it has happened to him and others too namely to live in a world that you don't see as it is but through who knows what imaginings

a somewhat complacent man in his midforties who sometimes has a depressing effect on people around him with a tendency towards portliness not unfriendly but very much reserved squinting what would he see anyway certainly not the open sea maybe coastscapes breakers piers canal-and-bridgeterritory it's got to be the watercolorist had said water back there at the end of the shore road the house which would when really be there



