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Mausoleum

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Mausoleum

Author Bio

Laken Franchetti is an English with a writing concentration and history double major. In addition to the Mercury, she is a staff writer and assistant news editor for the Gettysburgian and acts as a writer and associate editor for Her Campus. After graduation, she hopes to become involved in book publishing and editing.

Mausoleum

LAKEN J. FRANCHETTI

*“Turn around, and keep your eyes closed shut, for if the Gorgon,
Medusa, does appear, and you
see her, you would never be able to return upward.”*
- Dante Alighieri

A broken vow twisted the hairs
that once lied atop my head.
No longer am I a noble savage,
for as I become the wretch they see me as,
he is merely allowed to roam free.

Having disgraced what once a sacred temple,
shame is what I brought upon the gods.
That shame rewarded me with venom,
coursing through the veins that lie beneath scales,
my era of malevolence begun.

Never given a say before indicted
by the goddess of the council,
I am left to persecute those who dare disturb—
those who dare enter—
the island of my exile.

Over the course of one day, I was undone.
Not my fault the pure vow was broken,
he took me while I turned frozen.

Now I live carelessly among a museum of haunts,
statues serving as
my everlasting reminder
that what once was never will be
and what will be is set in stone.

For eternity, trapped in this tomb of souls
 who failed to return upward,
with dusty gravel spread upon the ground
and remnants of those who tried to flee,
 my collection of what will never be.

Now any man who wish to see me—
tongue gnashing and gaze piercing—
 will realize the mistake
 with little time left,
their body yielding with a last breath.

 A new addition to my collection,
 caught snaking through the exhibits!
 Your indictment comes swift,
stopping the cries protruding from the mouth,
 locking the joints as the arms raise,
 the rise of your chest concedes
 as the heart surrenders to the stone.

 Herein lies the curse of Medusa.
 Welcome to my mausoleum.