

Large Ceramic Burial Urn
Maya Classic Period A.D. 550–850

Representing the Son God in the Jaws of the Earth Monster

By Dorothy Nelson

I know that face
That stone face gnarled mouth
Hardened plated eyes inviolate
Stay away

Face of weapon and shield
Like an electric fence

But for its distance and balance
Could the sun destroy us
Remember that mouth

Look not to youth alone
Ancient urns from thousands
Gnarled hands speak

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