On Corcovado Mountain

High above the sands of Rio, clouds veil the impassive face

of the Redeemer. Momentarily pale sunlight steals through

seeking refuge in folds of the stiffly fluted skirt. Below

in deeper shadows, in crevices of precarious hills

crouch faceless squalid children whom those out stretched arms will never hold, never redeem.

(From Octavia and Other Poems © 1988, reprinted in Connected Islands: New and Selected Poems)