

Asterion

Do you think
that when the minotaur was born,
Pasiphae loved him?
Marveled at the milk-white film
of afterbirth
clinging to his nose?
Held him to her chest to suckle
with soft calf lips,
stroked the damp down of his hide?

Do you think he was born with horns—
meant to rend open his mother—
or did the hate of his father
and the swords of heroes
create a monster ripe
for destruction.