



## Ascetic's Advice for Denial

By Liesel M. Tarquini

To be devout, not devouring:  
sleep alone, drink black coffee –  
there's no cut of cock, no clot of cream  
if you're to be devout, not devouring.

The rogue celibate among society  
may find denial worth reconsidering.

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sleep alone, drink black coffee.

Liesel M. Tarquini is an MFA candidate in Creative Writing at The New School. Her penchant for half-n-half in her coffee has ruled out the possibility of 'ascetic' as a lifestyle choice, though it remains a viable option should she ever become lactose intolerant. [www.lieseltarquini.com](http://www.lieseltarquini.com).