

What the Eyes of Texas Are Upon

Opposite Matamoros ("Slaughter of the Moors")
A fenced-in sandbar where the Rio Grande ends,
Unlovely Brownsville is itself a slaughter site,
If not of Muslims, then of smugglers' clientele,
Heatstroke and thirst each more effective agency
Than vigilantes on patrol. If terrorists
Are in that clientele--and is it thinkable
That Allah, after all those years in Andaluz,
Picked up no Spanish?--if terror cells also
Are suffocated stateside in abandoned vans,
Homeland Security can claim a victory,
As can, statistics would suggest, narcotic squads,
An afterlife, a better life, the promise ends
This side of Paradise. There may or may not be
Ahead the sixty-seven virgins, living wage,
Room at the inn, Magi's sure astrology.
As goal, the Lone Star, Juan, is only for the Wise.