HERDS

The men are unloading goats from a boat
onto the sandy beach of Paleochora.
A few goats escape, run wild through the port,
only to be surrounded, tied up, and carted

by wheelbarrow into town, while a large
pelican sits on the beach wall, watching.
This happens often, both before and after
the refugees arrive, half dead, from across

the Mediterranean—Somali, Sudanese,
Egyptian, Syrian. They've mistaken
the island for Italy. Herded into a gym, police
paint registration numbers on their arms

as they sleep. Names are ignored.
We are human, we have names, they complain.
There is so little left. In some parts
of the world, even the goats have names.

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