

E m p t y a s o r d i n a r y

G r e g o r y M a r k e e

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P r i t y L i g h t s

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M A D I S O N

PART ONE

TWIDDLED MINDS

The contract atween authority and what becomes authority
 [promise]
 the twiddled minds advance in simulation of
 a futured measures an office a
 mind of one's own to twiddle
 a mind to move about like a train a mind to prove a philosophy because
 theory is theoretical and not yet governed
 by natural force and
 by the way can you get me a coffee with three creams still
 the birds cannot be heard because the corner windows are fixed
 count the days
 count the floors the elevator ascends
 count the women in my life not counting the androgynies of
 workplace being
 really
 is it not about fitting everyone amiably into this place
 was an annual performance evaluation by her if needs be said
 constitution is a mission statement is a tattoo just because
 they cannot have all of me
 I am concerned because I am not always sure when I should lean forward or
 lean backward
 put my feet up admire myself o
 o
 the bottom line ah yes indeed I am twiddled
 given reference given referendum measured by an understood force
 regards the goals of production to a teacher is to say
 the professor who gave us all A's really made me feel good about myself
 I just need a little time to process the content
 now that I am expected to teach
 and if it were an avocational station to measure life's worth
 then offer no consideration to one's vocation
 just remember to set Monday's alarm
 is a question of checks and balances among the population
 is a question of the separation of powers in which several are required
 to initiate war and the conflagrations of war but
 seniority grows silent seniority elects a more targeted approach
 to the rise and falls of fires
 o time the durability of time is a lesson I too give A's
 figuring the inevitability of some curriculum among all of that spent
 program called econohistorophiloartwelfare that spent
 program called balance [I]

WHY THE BRIDE WAS NEVER A BRIDE

Time is understood
 the supposed course of freedom of continuity is reference
 precedent
 hereupon law for order the mutualisms of history they
 never required a magistrate for [that] contract
 the revelations of will are told in the briefs of being

Why the bride was never a bride
 law is common enough to say a habits been a habits be
 O trust enough a line nor change the administrations of formalism
 a shared bed a coffee for taste the liberties of weekends
 the counted seasons and
 to grow content and quiet as any

Truth were ritual if to say regards to faith
 truth were ritual if to say regards to habit
 truth were ritual if to say love equals love does not love equal love or say
 love is original
 truth were ritual if to say what does happen naturally is cause
 truth were ritual if to say want without consideration of origins

A secrecy of celebration is no candor to public spheres
 nor a matter to the particulars of days
 just
 to call upon a secular notion of togetherness proving tomorrow is
 a station drawn from today's it is
 your turn to cook

Nor is it mine to say another's nor my remiss to take no notice of
 silence
 upon what is no invitation but a conversational mention of promise
 yes
 for better and worse did begin then and before then nor
 requires an invitations unto what is watch

Common law is no measure of faith but community but social privilege
 and the attachments of social privilege
 say friend for being [aye]
because
because
because

THE MOTH UNDER THE JEWELER'S LOUPE

The moth under the jeweler's loupe
 is dead of nature's cause
 lying in state upon the sidewalk impressive with green fans and life
 in spite of the day
 with long tail a yellowed haired antennae in death you
 are not afraid
 a spotted camouflage so broad from above
 a prod nor life again again
 nor life again a whited belly and red legs but that is only
 entomology

It is within my control to create myth to mention higher purpose
 ferried orphans from one side of the forest to another
 by moonlight o luna
 ate mushrooms like constellations rested on autumn night winds
 why it is we do as we do a surface is never enough notice from them
 but silence ever so too in death
 a wings of powder a wings of tiny crystals
 was an egg a mother upon a walnut tree let away a metamorphic family
 how the world does age with one's emergence but that is only
 entomology

THE MENACE OF FORENSIC POETRY THE MENACE OF CLINICAL POETRY

Said confession
 trolls confession
 psychology undermines sociology the force of
 authenticity
 declares the beauty the semiotic beauty of want and distress
 qualifies as poetry for what will not qualify as poetry
 the
 institutional defense of a collective position
 journaled and left away the seasons
 the stars
 the spring winter the watch of change
 for the murders the rapes the thieveries upon a stage like outrage then
 quietly put to a numbered exam room
 is a social good for who might argue might against injustice
 yet
 poetry is stolen
 will take a generation of war to reclaim
 desire and the birds and the history of suffering
 of the expression of freedom without mention to freedom's word

I
 too carry reason and there is no system to responsibility of
 a cleverness which binds other clevernesses
 a menace
 a boat
 justice is a boat

Said confession
 trolls confession
 the rain came with the slaughter and the snow the dropped temperature

Was a siren lasted five minutes the city tornado siren [exactly at a thought]
 two thirty eight in the afternoon after
 the radio said it was a statewide practice alert for preparedness

A poem about poems is a guide on how to write poems mention her
 [sex]
 better yet let *her* mention her [sex]

THIRD PERSON

Left a body behind a closet door to listen to
the ghastly rumors of vertebrate sex

Listen a giggle
for when phones were still connected to walls

To hold in language is
the development of a book supposing a question by the answers sounded and

Were it true and with no regard to truth and were it true
love is imaginary

That is why the aged suffer because of
the disillusionment that love is or is not imaginary

At the store
ice cream is an aphrodisiac so is popcorn

At the movie the couple
kissed again and again and then just kept kissing one long kiss

At the park
the same the weather is no mention

The problem with imaginary is that it is less than concrete less than certain
the problem with imaginary is that it is self ordained

The expressions of coupling are a fuddled mess really
there is saliva and a misappropriation of all sorts of body parts

And to mention the economies of a solitary existence is
really the opposite of truth

For who will eat a dozen eggs before they expire
and who will get a Costco membership for themself alone

No
she leaned forward pornographically and then he with a slow hand

The closet door was pulled closed with a fingers on the underside of the door
Tom heard his name [Tom]

TO HEIR TO HEIR

The ascendants
 called to death and younger than I for wonder
 like angels
 to heir to heir nor the will of wills

It is early it is five am
 for coffee the quiet house the furnace
 explain to me
 where it is I am when I am complete [I do not know]

Before a calling before a discern
 the ascendants
 language brought about in children I knew I just knew
 [I do not know]

The cape is a measure of goodness and badness
 all of the demons were let away expelled
 leaving but a stone a curious stone
 [risen]

The ascendants
 to heir to heir was a teacher at the age of six
 and with no license but a colored interest
 explain to me a winter song any winter song

The breath passed about the candle
 inadvertently and a tear for why am I
 so stationed and so restless the last of giving for there is no one
 to give to

The pulled apart minds of we for answers
 it will be five years of this before I am cunning in defeat
 it will be ten years and more before
 I stop counting

The ascendants
 [but it was not them] [after all] it was a grandfather
 a grandfather's grandfather fifteen generations past
 solving

PLAIN SONG

Every day repeats itself
the years and
the station of being against a weather
witness the cost of witness is
a graying beard a browlines

The permanence of thought will trump
time and time again
having let away that which is no reconciliation with
stillness
certainty

*Was latin angelic latin
no matter
to lay one's head in the crux of one's elbow like prayer but not really
[but the calendar]
but the calendar returns upon itself but that is only an answer*

DID I NOT VOTE

Did I not vote
 is this not the greatest art I can offer today
 the greatest expression
 and something to talk about for a referential term

I was sleeping gently napping
 the thunder
 the thunder always happens when he wins
 the new administration will be counted ordered and counted

Did I not vote
 put a stop to this
 wear a sticker that says I voted
 turned off the tv returns

Yes a democracy
 in which I win in which there are no losers
 really
 because a poet has better things to consider [eh]

The clouds rolled like June but it is April
 snowed yesterday wet and heavy
 I caught myself breathing again
 the weight of social participation is a burden is no burden

It is just
 the lines forming about truth and mediocrity
 even the candidates are so medium
 I do not celebrate mediocrity

Did I not vote
 went to the top of the hill lit a cigarette with practice ballot in hand
 practice practice makes perfect
 yellow then if I must choose a primary color yellow

I imagine at the post office
 a handshake I have no baby for you to kiss
 do you need a researcher a poet in residence yes
 looking for work

THE MOTHS

The hairy powdered arms
 the inconsequential day and the lighted night
 the shadowed shadows listen
 [she threw a teacup against the wall] [nor a word from him]
 he had seen it all before you see he visits the cinema
 gets up with the ten o'clock news figured out
 human interest story and death and technology and human interest story
 [she went off to work caring] [and eating a biscuit]
 midnight is pork four am is Denny's pronounced *Lenny's*
 the rain had stopped but there was yet that clouded echo
 the wet pavement
 [she works nights]
 the tattoo the constitutional tattoo just one
 matched hers [she said they were still in love] [how could they not be]
 tonight he brought a book about games
 tucked into his black pants in the small of his back
 he had stopped reading a year ago but never swore off books
 enough light is a stoop the gone moon
 but the stars for the clearing sky
 a game of sexuality but not of sex
 the character of a couple framed in marriage
 [she assumes his name] [she still assumes his name]
 he lifted his fanned wings for the night closes his eyes and inhales
 but you are no superhero
 you collect superpowers assume them like a wife assumes a name
 understand them and with a retention of one's own soul
 fly about the distractions of shiny curiosities
 removed the book from his behind and made a seat of it on the wet surface
 his tattoo itched like she said hers did
 recall the matter of justice which led to her devotion
 said he no longer needed to be the provider [because]
 he was once a hero he saved a boy from drowning actually
 anyone would have done it
 he put his antennae on the ground [that was daylight and he was
 only experimental then]
 he would not have done it now and she would say the same thing
 [best be getting back]
 [I will be home soon] [she says]
 [I can tell when you're listening] [it smells like an echo]
 and whether it were duty or obligation or interest
 [can you get some juice on the way home] [oh and some plain yogurt]

SNOW IN APRIL IS SATIRE

Snow in April is satire
 sobering satire
 nor condemnation to the force which brings weather
 it was I
 never said God
 is not absurd
 the flower poked through the snow
 it was on a mountain a thousand miles away lightning took a life
 is not absurd
 the way *things* are claimed
 just slippery roads here and an extra attention to divinity
 hah
 this will be gone quickly as it came
 there is an explanation
 the wooden dolls argue accuse
 the contempt of earthly ways I say
 okay
 I have no explanation I just put on a warmer coat
 wonder if the sky is another way
 than earth I
 remember the stars and say God [just once]
 as if
 I am an anchor to gravity I am a test
 the satire of snow in April is temporal
 can be explained scientifically
 can be expelled scientifically
 [but] [can you explain beauty]
 [like]
 and whether *things* are questions or answers
 and whether
 the appreciation of the grotesque acknowledges
 a potential of the grotesque
 beauty is
 in the eye of the beholder and requires no public education campaign
 it is just
 Snow is pretty
 the stick branches collect snow
 the birds are still singing
 next week is different when the buds start but
 that is only science that is only media
 that is only forecast

FORBIDDEN

I am forbidden

I was once accessible with keys and now I am forbidden

what you see is how I carry my frame my head

what you hear is the common banter of a greeting

I am forbidden

I make no cause for your entry I make no cause

and when a cause for your entry is made I deny that cause

written

I am forbidden

like a cinder block I am forbidden like a river stone with only its being

like one who travels a vast emptiness you

will never mind you will never know

I am forbidden

like a poem too short is forbidden

makes no subject of my own

[silence]

CODA

Hello friends and cousins
 in these final moments I would like to introduce
 what does require an easy chair a table for
 Jaegermeister
 is a balloon brought into space for view *pop [that is all]
 sundown and the stars begin like a word
 brought into existence in the middle of this country but that is only a story
 midnight and the trees do open
 the gone cars thinking of themselves
 the names of names the relations of origins the types of peace
 crawl into familiarity in a fetal way
 that is done like history is done that is done
 the separations of having been is a mention to anthropology
 for who is not bent and framed in place
 was sixty five years to retire to start
 coda
 the volunteer at the museum said
 Kandinsky's geometry had no background but texture
 she said the same thing
 Kandinsky's geometry had no background but texture
 I prefer the anatomies of brains in pen and ink the biopsychologies of
 interest
 [took a step in my direction and I stepped away]
 the carnival
 was a deer about four am out back I was smoking a cigarette [then]
 some *things* are so familiar
 the morning news is a woman senator brought her infant to the senate floor
 the morning news is this and that
 the stovetop espresso Medalia D'oro really I can taste no difference
 is late enough in spring to say quieter than a furnace
 o herald my world
 is brought before age like a judge
 the umbrella turned inside out she was the only one with an umbrella
 like he was the only one wearing boots
 when spring let down snow
 one got away
 one balloon made it out of sight
 the attached message [help I am a prisoner]
 no
 a balloon can never make it to the moon
 even if it promises

MIDTERMS

What is that smell
 the haze of green drifts east to west
 the opposite of the wind
 it just so happens
 truth is truth even if it is not mentioned as such
 it took a child to ask *what is that smell*
 the courtesies of election years are
 contained within each the parties
 let out the lawyers the divinity school grads the veterans the unionists
 the campaign is pleased to announce
 they are compatible with the voting block
 what is that smell
 lavender is not green it is
 marijuana
 was a contest for the buzz of information
 the pricks of constitutional freedoms
 like an anthem
 it was the paternalisms of *that* governor
 gave me something to vote against
 like dissuasion
 kept mentioning numbers spun numbers no
 that smell is something different like
 dissatisfaction
 prove to me the energies of
 trickle down economics
 hush a moment so I can try to believe you
 no the smell is still there
 this goes to the top all the way to the top
 the harlot
 the presidency the harlot
 make me a promise she whispered
 when you become president you will be loyal to me
 it was the school board for freedom
 put one of its own into the race like integrity
 the Jesuit trained Baptist who stopped short
 did not acknowledge the smell
 just said breathe through your mouth
 early returns indicate a degree of satisfaction with
 the observation of midterm politics
 what is that smell
 [we are getting there]

A WORK OF ART

Ignorance is the only thing that makes sense
 I was wearing red velvet at the time
 just speaking my own language and eating Ben and Jerry's
 on the curb
 with a bendy plastic spoon
 just let it sit a while to soften smoke a cigarette and let it soften
 it was a Grateful Dead shirt as an undershirt washed and shrunk
 from XXL to medium
 she walked by cordial with her dog mentioned something about new spring
 there are some people that cannot be known but by their surface
 what is the difference between an MD and a PhD
 no
 you cannot be both
 was a squirrel on the electric wire
 was a bird at that feeder yesterday a hawk no it was a pheasant
 a long tail a spotted chest
 the woman with the beard stopped for gas did not realize she dropped her keys
 I just watched figured she would figure
 she did
 I was not wearing my hat today the one from Ireland
 probably wait until Fall's first chill
 for a moment I was absolutely still
 a work of art
 acknowledge ignorance what little I know is peace is discretion
 is what a question *is*
 Cherry Garcia
 I will bring my own spoon next time
 afternoon is a melted pleasure is laundry is witness is a pose
 there are greater troubles than my own no these are not bell bottoms
 just say reason is what I call reason
 just takes a moment a day to slow read Kant really
 and when you're done with that try slow reading The Divine Comedy but
 you have to read them all or it is not a comedy
 no that mole does not appear to be cancerous I had to ask
 said responsibility
 just a little knife
 had it sharpened at the culinary store on their whetstone
 too small for apples and peanut butter I should get an Opinel
 take it to the middle of the forest cross my legs open a bottle of wine
 ignorance is the only thing that makes sense
 there is so much to know

GREEN

I read a book
 a woman dressed in algae
 in lichen with mountain bees buzzing
 the uninhabitable desert was a forest good for birds and friendly
 cancer was solved there
 turkois turquoise so too the desert will be taken for stone
 downriver all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and
 back
 up through Montana west Lewis and Clark
 them and them caught beavers for beads like elsewhere
 the caretakers took for profit as we all did
 the sustainability of the matter is
 population density it is
 2018
 and NASA has mapped all of the questions
 the hunter photographer the bighorn sheep snap
 better than its death I suppose better than a table of food when
 I could have had farm grown lamb purchased at Safeway for the Crock Pot
 big farms
 there are many people big farms humane farms with methods
 methods
 I am vegan but when I am *really* hungry
 recycle declares a conscience realize
 the atrophy of civilization is a morality fallen to nature it was
 the philosophers said nature is such and such
 no
 there is but one nature and man is not included by his own will
 the adaptation to space is governed mathematically
 economically
 what is taken is regrown
 [but they are insecure] [they are not thinking of their children]
 I read a book
 made of paper and squid ink maybe I did not ask the material content
 the author lived in New York City
 researched at the New York Public Library used the word ethnology
 okay
 New York is a habitat
 I hold my breath let
 the throbs of history the origins of questions pass
 doom had nowhere to go until best friends butted up against one another
 did I mention I saw a pheasant

THE COLORING BOOK

The governing lines
van Gogh was a starry night
principle
a question for what force is color the colored pencil
reds and purples and yellows
against what memory of the original
say pink to the steeple
because
corruption is the vanguard of modernity
was a green mountain midnight
underwater pale blue horizon for control
a red orbs a stars caught against a visible wind
amber
was oil and water I agree
there is no life but my own
the phallic treetop the consummate forebeing
I take an exacto knife
remove you like a chainsaw
and what is not colored I say is blue
infirmary blue I agree
put it on my frigerator with a magnet

TODAY IS FAMILIAR

The exercise of free will among the familiar
 and were it deviation in the interest of deviation
 change for change
 art colors a walls that sort of change
 something to think about
 was discontent at its last telling a littled satisfaction
 I was hungry and tired put myself down with wishes
 it is all too easy to regard
 the lives we lead as traveled as fixed
 [skip history] [a moment]
 challenge philosophy the analyticist but don't become one
 it is all too important to swallow a moment just a moment
 address oneself

This letter is written for tomorrow
 nor a pledge but say
 do you remember writing this letter like the day
 and the day before
 yes
 today is familiar nor I retreat from the familiar
 I just have a question I have not put to words
 and if that is all then
 you are released as I have been
 wondering

She wore blue velvet
 sandals
 it will be an hour midnight before she realizes she is in
 my dream
 the consternation of familiarity is the unexpected
 I ask she put the red dress on and go barefoot
 and we have never met I say

But your attention is my own
 The wind chime the other sounds for patience is no sound
 I am not sure of the rules of free will in a dream

THE DEGRADATION

I would like to go somewhere I have never been
 challenge what I understand
 the degradation of oneself is a formula for language
 it was a question middle life
 the glaciers were receding but they *they* had no radios
 production is up
 what type of anthropologist are you I say
 no
 maybe
 amorality and immorality mean the same thing
 I saw a picture of a waterfall a river ran inside the glacier
 the melt
 the whales and all that
 I brought a book had a hot dog and coffee onboard
 but *that* is in the back of my mind my time here is finished
 witness
 the environmentalist drew a line said
 some people are natural some are not natural
 celebrate Earth Day there is a fixed amount of resources
 pick up your plastic bags
 took them *them* three years to make the two lane highway into
 a three lane highway
 eventually change will be contest to migrations
 to habitats
 I would like to go somewhere without conscience
 order room service
 that is all
 the tribal menu is roasted pig and tropical fruit imported
 served with a candle because
 tiki torches are not allowed in the rooms and I am not leaving cept
 get on an airplane in a few days
 get home and adapt again
 witness
 say there is a holism to this being we do live in
 extraordinary times
 I think
 the city birds will be alright the small birds
 the family farms the economy will adapt like attrition adapts
 where one goes inside of themself nor call it solace
 because
 nature is what I recall nor one to answer a question but myself

THE RECLAMATION

O cast away
 the gone possessions including I and to be done
 including reason dispelled
 put oneself where one is last
 but a room behind a thrift store with a sink
 a mattress on the linoleum floor that is all
 swept and straightened there a few hours a day
 there is no bottom to social status it is a fallacy there is a bottom
 a top to social status
 that is all but time
 is governed by its entrails the looseness of convenience
 mention God as that which is control and were God just
 say law is what it is your faith
 I
 like nature is nature was a camera for a poet a pencil
 the accountancies of smallness is a comparative status
 when they just willed themselves to make it through
 day and day another weather
 one by one mention the struggles of security
 a hierarchy of needs
 Maslow was fed and with clear conscience rings truth
 upon what ails a life a soul
 just a moment
 like a ledge for rest and to purchase the view for memory
 at every point one is satisfied [pause] and to be met with another challenge
 bought a desk with drawers for his underwear his socks
 a chair
 a light that is all
 the door faced east the two windows faced east it is April the open door
 purpose is enough to get vegetables and apple peanut butter
 what is right what is wrong what
 am I allowed to enjoy
 the monastic impressions of train track walks riverside
 the monastic impressions of community gardens for watch
 the monastic impressions of the season coming about
 I
 nor selfless to harbor the ideas of wellness for them and them
 really
 there is no cause but my own said like confidence
 now
 there is no cause but my own said like confidence [question]

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Contraband the kite

Contraband *that* type of beauty

Contraband freedom the idea of freedom

Contraband *that* word

Contraband said one religion to another

there is a character to faith

Contraband the invasive species the introduction of invasive species

Contraband behavior

the Contraband assembly of civil rightists

Contraband emissions

the outlaw

is not always an outlaw but is an outlaw when an outlaw

o

the classroom the contained curricular environment

no gum

please use clear backpacks turn your cell phones off

THE WAYS OF LAUGHTER

To laugh at one's own humor
 the diabolical laugh at another's missed step
 the irresistible laugh because something is funny
 the laugh for having read too much philosophy
 the prolonged laugh upon one's own good fortune
 the twiddled laugh for having gotten away with something

Was a smile turned to grin turned to exhalation
 laughter
 snort
 laughter at snorting

There is an appreciation an inner laughter celebration
 among the majestic
 caught a trout there
 at the lake rested at a fire now the mountains rise still snowcapped
 the naked aspens

The predictability of God
 is a maturation of the self the predictability of nature
 the predictability of love
 [maybe]

The unexpected laughter my own and without cause is
 a mark of insanity
 [no] [maybe]
 in retrospect *it* was not funny [*it*] [question]
 I do not remember

If ever
 there were a nerve which defeats all other nerves if ever
 he climbed from mishealth it were a freedom of conscience if ever
 a doctor having died will say

The horse laugh for reason brushed against the wooden fence
 for an apple
 the captive and to say wellness within
 what is domestic was a turned bed a cleaned windows a frames about
 security but I do laugh thankfully resembling a smile
 [yes]

THE DISRUPTIONS OF PROGRESS

What does stay the same
progress is a dragon is many heads

Is a letter is a memo is a list
the neighbors got an RV

It has been fifteen minutes since
the last plane overhead

What I observe [reference] time
the neighbors started a garden

Nor longer drivers for the taxis
what is the human condition *now*

Was that talent laid off because of robots
rehired for quality assurance

Are we back to science yet
what is the official way to explain

Who holds the golden coins
convinces generations [question]

The administration is
the most recent escalator

Convince me you live longer happier
rightly

Zero waste is progress
the smoke from the plastic factory the recyclers

Hide and seek in a tree farm
what is sustainable but consideration

The internal forms was a doctor said
the eradication of disease is nearly accomplished

Progress is a dragon is many heads
is Cerberus

WHEN TEACHERS STRIKE

I started education at Humpty Dumpty preschool
 except for growing in a house of educators
 I was handed to public curriculum at the age of five
 learned letters and numbers
 had favorite books for six years before entering
 junior high
 I do not remember what they remember *them*
 who see conditions who see progress every day
 the opinion of one teacher is not the position of another teacher
 but they come together because
 there is a civic temper a public appreciation promised
 [but they were sharing a desk] [but they were sharing a text]
 [book]

It was a large assembly
 school was not held
 there was no one there
 I do not know if they locked the doors did someone lock the doors

It was a large assembly
 fifteen wide and blocks long they marched to the capitol
 demonstration is a voice there is a lesson in this
 the collective interest of the marchers
 is a question of money the appropriation of resources
 wearing red
 this is fun
 when was the last time
 how did that turn out
 the points of contest are listed in today's journal
 was a student a high school student wrote a letter
 marched
 is thinking about being a teacher

Laid out clothes for the next day even though it is a Saturday
 the red shirt for purpose
 starts again Monday for the governor's schedule
 and were it a curricular escape for a moment for a higher purpose
 say method is a contemplative way
 and what teacher does call it *shop* like production
 is common as if a book need not be written
 no

PASSAGES

Two bodies brush in passing
 was their eye contact first for memory
 o time is gone I remember them and them
 is a question as to what does stay
 regard the constant as my own force among instants and to decide
 what is value
 passages

It was five meaningful years
 cooperative and redundant enough for independent thought
 oft silly enough to say friends
 and time does pass for going away for reason
 and with no conscience to her tears say
 it is my burden to say my distress is secular is unformed
 for your distress

One chapter is a lesson is a preamble unto the next
 what cross to bear
 for letting them and them learn the hard way
 and were I to grow silent in their becoming I
 will say I attend to the course of my own if only for the moment
 then
 wonder at each our gifts

Was a hundred years passed was a lifetime
 I do not recall
 I still wear the same watch the one without the second hand
 it was not perfect it was perfect
 I am divided
 did you know I made an institution I made a school
 but that is nothing really

QUANTUM SORTS

Quantum sorts
 there are damages for responsibility
 specifically
 the broken glass
 the melted carpet
 the lost time
 the penitentiary for the penitent
 there are damages a flower cannot solve that love cannot solve
 the measure of one and one is not one
 counted the realist with dry lips
 it was I loved you first loved you more
 the poetry on the shelves is incomplete
 depends on what you study costs money to study
 absolution is a word
 rose again on Easter speaking another language
 where will you go *this time*
 there is a place where the sun does not set
 I have *always* considered this home
 a vacuum for the glass the candle got out of hand
 an area rug
 the theatre of becoming
 is a lesson in history is not a comedy is a tragedy
 this time
 there is a place where the sun does not set [clause: this time of year]
 [it sets at ten]
 still waiting
 she begins
 the answer to a broken pane of glass is to clean it
 to carry the shards to sweep the bits to vacuum
 to put it in the trash with the tears
 light a votive candle for the mantle again
 like a prayer
 the breathless afternoon bleeds into the night dozed on the couch
 reading the latest US Poet Laureate what's her name
 maybe a dream to believe
 the poet one day becomes a novelist
 writing Monday through Friday nine to five
 they say they can fix the window tomorrow rain is not expected
 put the Van Gogh framed print in the opening
 for now
 there are damages for responsibility

PAST THE MAILBOX PAST THE WATER TOWER

Past where the sidewalk ends past the edge of town
 past the county line the state line
 stay on the shoulder the cars start moving quick
 do not look back the sunflowers
 hitch hike west bound as far as one can go

Past the mailbox past the water tower
 once went as far as one can go once packed my pockets and went
 the sunflowers
 not the big kind but the roadside kind with brown centers
 found a pipe

Past the poetry the poetics the birds the hawk
 put your small dogs indoors
 past the vapors of politics policy entitlement it grows from the ground
 it keeps growing it keeps growing but give it a name
 and it changes form

Past the old decrepit ways of history
 no there is no lesson in mentioning the pervasion of war
 stopped at beauty stopped at referential beauty
 lived that way
 time and time again

It changes hands like money it was originally found
 nobody wants it
 who has the heart to pass it along no one cares to cause grief
 someone needs to follow the rules
 put it in a plastic bag and bury it at low tide

Past the myths the legends the lore
 there are no constellations but the constellations I name
 the aphrodisiac of middle age
 so much before and so much to be
 but I already did that and it is not my turn now

THE EASY DAY

Dismissed confusion elected clarity for
 the easy day
 will not be wasted
 sent a wire to the poet governor said six months to be in print
 the dependence of poets is quieting is a song of time
 I said your audience is my own
 persistence
 sent a wire to the grocer to deliver food I never
 have to leave
 is it not going to reach eighty degrees today snow two weeks ago
 the buds are starting will be green soon I was going to wire someone about that
 kept it to myself
 met someone
 how to go about wondering about someone without being offensive
 how to double oneself triple oneself
 for passion for work for privacy
 all I had was Everclear you see I was making herbal extracts
 a dash with lemonade is the start of summer nearly
 the easy day
 is a slow train
 dismissed convenience to say it is not convenient enough
 there is no measure to convenience when convenience is dismissed as
 equally as inconvenience
 or say equitably if to say a reparations are allowable
 equity equitably equally just
 words
 and to find meaning in words like context say
 indeed the crossword puzzle is a buffer to the day
 sometimes spans to lunch I think I will name my next dog Sudoku
 maybe a Shar Pei
 eh
 absence

 a space between being when the knighted owl established
 place
 they were here first but I am larger
 no I am no competition for your food I am a voyeur
 it is still light out
 and to be the downer just a month and a half until the days get shorter
 again
 no not a downer just truth just science that is all

DOCILE

A negative reference to that which is not docile
 can I say mountain
 is a sixty mile perimeter causes snow and rain and lightning
 docile for its integrity understood
 volcanic maybe again
 my own response is void of temptation I know when
 to step aside like respect
 the trees to treeline the bees the lichen above the little flowers
 docile for measure I return
 was just a cloud nor threat
 I am near to a place called elation a shortness of breath
 a shortness of being
 it is my own lifespan is short among geologic time
 reckoning an instant

They settled into the southern foothills like a base camp
 imported coke and pepsi and wonder bread and peanut butter
 it is the fresh air
 one follows another to understand why

Everything that is not docile needs to wear a patch
 then we will know
 the waterfall is docile to watch the canyon is docile to stand at the rim
 [things] have been taken
 and who to blame but God say nature the unpredictability of nature
 there is a man called Storm volunteered to wear a patch
 like consolation
 the grace of the flood from the bluff is a docile force is docile
 say violence among one's own securities is a spectacle
 enough to cause a painting enough to cause a poem
 time is violent in retrospect time is docile in retrospect

They put signs civil signs in front of their businesses
 agreed to pay taxes for the common good
 prefer civil to docile just that docile sounds so defeated
 I once had a good idea

Checked the weather walked to the top of the mountain that is all
 took some cheese and crackers and water
 asked a question I knew the answer to just ritual that is all
 it was a Sunday

DEPRECIATION AND NATURE

Take stock in nature
 appreciative nature
 is a series of cycles even the barbed wire goes away
 a habitat returns to favor native species
 that is only time
 time and wind and rain
 I have no recollection of my own native place but civilization
 that is why I have so many questions like language
 every year it needs new paint
 why does the garden need to be replanted
 a rust spot on the car

THE TREE

Has always been will always be
 the forest fire a hot blown wind a zap of lightning
 cause
 burned from the inside

THE BURNING BUSH

Ordination is a burning bush is a calling
 burns quick is license to figure upon sin and
 justice and order
 was just out walking when God

ABOUT A WINDOW

About a window
 paned
 the first rain came two weeks after the last snow
 brazen like summer
 all at once and seventy five
 listen
 the birds
 the starting greens the primaries

About a window
 open for smell
 answer
 the season comparatively mentioned with a year ago
 this is better
 this is always better
 politics and nature
 suffering is always better with a reference

About a window
 freshly cleaned for clarity
 I
 understand rain the air
 freshly cleaned for clarity
 the stump
 freshly cleaned for clarity
 question

About a window
 southway to the aviary
 the season comparatively mentioned with a decade past
 the clouds are an opinion
 the clouds are observational
 it is the same day it is not the same day
 autonomy
 is a sentry

THE APOCALYPSE

Because the sky grew dark like an eclipse
 but it was no eclipse
 but that is not why
 why is because lives have become stratified
 slavery is religiously justified
 the occasion for homelessness is sudden
 relies upon the discern of social services
 imagination is contained when one is situated in such a way as to
 resettle from zero
 the studio garage is a matter of reclamation by them
 just a car and a full tank of gas
 will get me to the same state line
 because last summer's drought continues this summer
 because a populations compete for what was
 nature's first principle the spirit of habitat
 the bank
 supposes a bank's weather supposes an insurance company's weather
 the sterile hospital
 but the bank is sterile
 the margin of error of sterile discourse is a pyramid
 convincement
 because money does not taste good it has no flavor
 the texture is cellulitic
 the fallen tree for the beetles the regrowth
 the forest is managed
 only ordained fires are permissible
 only ordained poets are permissible
 because the limits of currency are to what is referential
 hard work
 answered what pondered and pondered
 because we are animal and civilization is occluded and fearful
 is impotent if mentioned only for its social welfare
 bought a home in the country actually bought the land
 built a home over the course of ten years while living in the yurt
 ha
 because the moon
 is answer to math because poetry is answer to math poetry
 what calculus is a canoe float
 the reclamation of the misappropriated beauties
 is cause for license and bureaucracy
 because I do not get the morning news

BLOODLETTING

Let out his heavy heart
the colors gradually returned and
silence
like the peace before and after
the rain

THE HONEST POEM

Contradicts the dishonest poem contradicts
 misrepresentation
 I could say a color a measure of color the weights the standards
 I could say disbelief
 the honest poem
 the culture of honest poems is a drab reading
 the post-sensational zeal of the exhibetry of honesty is
 a contemplative afternoon
 for
 to represent the opposite is to suppose them into truth
 to be corrected is a fabled teacher
 the allowance of correction is a fabled teacher
 and to say thus the honest poem requires stations of dishonesty
 is reasonable
 for a reader's interrogative good ask
 where it is you are taking me new
 the honest poem
 is no attempt to color the sky if one knows the sky is colored
 is no suspicion but reason
 rides upon the purpose of dishonesty until it breaks
 convince me
 of love and being of traveled age and circumstance
 because
 and I am communed with an agreeable order
 and were there no contradiction to say honesty in a way
 say it is said
 like all thoughts and all good thoughts are registered secured

The sky bent down collapsed first purple then
 dark and stars
 whisper and for no other soul

THE DECEPTION OF MIDDLE AGE

The deception of middle age
is different than the deception of early age
when health and vigor are policy
and what is not new has always been

The deception of middle age
is different than the deception of late age
when there is trust that what has been will continue
when new limits of a body are found recognized

The deception of middle age
is a broken promise is an observation that not all is beauty
when truth the dereliction of truth is a loudness to language
when one first looks to one elder then another as model

PART TWO

SAVE THE WORLD

Do not turn on your sprinklers unless you are growing native species
 request paper bags
 do not rake your leaves
 walk to your voting station
 listen to the birds for information watch the birds
 ask a question
 how is it that we get along so

The dependence of populations no
 the symbiosis of populations of species is a question of God
 the reformation for having been formed
 the formation in defense the formation as to why
 the formation for existence the germ of existence the germ of threat
 is a calling
 save the world

And in saving the world put a band around the waterfall the mountain
 you will be here in a generation
 when they will put a band around you
 drive home in an electric car say prayers and wake up the next day
 the measurement of beauty is attention the measurement of collective beauty
 is a band about the entity
 is protection

And her with silver hair
 the president I am as well and the next and the next is president as well
 the rain was so quick it puddled on the cut grass
 that is all of civilization the cut grass
 and the roads but they will be gone soon or there will be more of them
 if there were one animal species remaining let it be mine
 fed lettuce and spinach behind a fence

Save the world give the world a name
 trust the encroach of life is my own encroach upon theirs
 nothing needs be taken nothing needs be received
 trust it is just beginning like the need for restraint teach restraint
 it was I never wished for power authority responsibility
 it was I never said language against ecosystems it was I never said
 I

INGESTIONS: THE MOON or THE EDIBLE DIARY OF THE TRAVELER

The flavor of the moon I did not ask
 the barista
 sprinkled it on a triple espresso really it had no flavor
 but took forever to finish unlike
 a sleepless night among the constellations served with cold pizza
 I knew at once I was included
 the thing about desolation is memory
 comparable memory to whittle at a potential for boredom
 the desert is a scorpion a saguaro or nothing at all
 but wait until it rains I never knew green then yellow in such a way
 a sulphur spring
 with tea
 is a minute in winter two minutes in summer
 beauty is curiosity how I might simulate nature how I might prove nature
 Antarctica is imported beef stew everything is imported
 except oxygen
 the big window here proves an elsewhere say
 who does not deserve a big window

I shuffled to the dock with dirty clothes in hand
 the ship would be returning soon
 it just goes back and forth and back and forth
 sounds boring but it does not bore me
 drop off people with questions pick up people having had questions
 [answered]
 take a picture take a picture one last picture
 some just go away having accomplished a thing
 rode a tricycle with two meter wheels in a foil suit
 stacked rocks upon rocks that had already been stacked
 had a famous pancake with moon dust and
 tea

The edible diary of the traveler
 tastes like paper and maybe vanilla like a passport
 stamped Gibraltar
 is an allowance to civilians like myself just bring a blanket it is
 an eight day passage
 to the west huh uh
 further west than that as far as you can go until
 you are in the east and keep going say
 orbit but it does not really feel like it

ECHO

Echo

the conscience the conscience of the conscience
the voice heard by no one
trust me

Bellows a truck

step away from the road put the sharp objects down
do not stare at the sun
eat almonds

Echo

for all you have done and all you have failed to do
some things cannot be explained
but that is personal

The window open middle night

awake alert

incantations prophecy and one's station in life what calling
no it was I waited too long

Echo

[it] is only a mystery a summoned voice
says what is already said
like Leibniz

GREEN BUDS

Green buds
new buds start o spring
the new idea is a rain
fall
and clears the sky then temperate
watch
it is my eyes for sense and then sound smell
my own nature from
conditions
follow attention the distribution of beauty
and to say
that
is only an appropriation of my welfare
tomorrow will be different
having lived through today
all of the colors are waiting
all of the rest of the colors are waiting

FOR PROFIT PRISONS

Corrections education for a standardized development
 to get along with others to play nicely
 to learn something
 what did happen
 learning for the sake of learning
 the vetoed budget the Board of Directors returned to the Headmaster
 corrections within a for profit school
 [this is a preparatory school]
 what source of public funding is legislatively allowable
 trains a student for the perpetuation of itself no
 it is not a good idea
 to have a marketeer to have a public relations soul when
 an outcomes are a positioned numbers
 [those students meeting a behavioral and academic criteria are]
 [data]
 [and the teacher receives a bonus when her students meet a criteria]
 education is always about corrections
 one degree unto the next one satisfactory unto another satisfactory
 eventually a society receives what was once a student
 eventually a society receives what was once one who broke a law
 aside from incorrigible instances ask
 what incentive is there to produce healthy citizens from within
 a prison complex
 ask
 rather what incentives exist for
 the introduction of the incorrigible mind it is
 not difficult to enlist a confidence team for a public interface but
 these are prisons and
 other happily engaged citizens attending to their own institutions
 assume a rightness to those legislative affairs which
 do the right thing
 abuse and neglect is what concern to a public exterior
 but to say *their* and *their* happiness or lack thereof is
 either cause to incorrigibility or a decisive moment to return to school
 get a job
 [the food] the food is not love were love allowed the food is not love
 the budget
 the inmates came from out of state was a bidding process
 time is done one is corrected
 [they said good enough] [what else could be said] about corrections and
 teleology

THE BLUFF

The young eagle
was a fight in the air
the barge held at the lock

The riverboat the casino
except for the cities
say agriculture is beyond the bluffs

The Mississippi
divides a nation
but for commerce for recreation

A million years ago
the river carved
a valley

Crawdads crayfish
mudbugs
catfish

Freezes in winter
but a cleared line
north to south

A working river
manufacturing production
a monitored volume of water passes

The canoe like then
still the dams to contend with
twenty three hundred miles

One way
to New Orleans to the delta
bathing in muddy water

Mosquito tent ticks
the open night the open sky
is a word

DOING THE OPPOSITE

I wanted to try something
 take back everything reverse everything
 I have never wanted to be someone else
 but this
 accumulations of learning and miseducation
 is replaceable
 the accounts unto the origins of dis ease
 her heart has never been for sale
 one person is not another person
 time is history that is all but death
 death is faith for what does follow
 doing the opposite assumes an original position
 the arch of being is one's own experience
 and to be fifty sixty seventy and living with some regret
 o policy one's own
 no one shall die again for my own cause
 now is silence

The afternoon owl
 and how the cat assumes the afternoon
 the open door

The consternations of want
 change is fertile the idea of change is fertile
 need I convince myself
 I may not be different but to change words about
 is what is
 defeated and centered into oneself
 that one can only trust one's own being
 I have admired your predictability said aloud
 to no one

Language is the last book I read
 the last conversation
 that is all I know except for creation but no one else knows that

Just let time by let riddled experience pass
 is no contradiction but to say I have traveled quickly
 assumed and assumed many things
 for being first
 now ask of the possibility of the impossible

ONE THING BECOMES ANOTHER

One thing becomes another the sun
 becomes the moon
 the sun assumes the moon the coin the phase of my attention
 the laureate drops her pen is an athlete
 now
 the golden coin the golden currency is too shiny to pass

What is it you know is what I know
 material thought is a lesson is framed like curriculum
 material thought qualified thought the sorcerer
 the dream maker
 the silent dream temptation and virtue and love and justice
 was once a child like anyone now grown still becoming

The regular
 dissent is a wish against conditions against
 authority perceived authority
 the color red was once the color blue
 one thing becomes another the pearls and knots
 put into a rosary

The eye
 the taken eye
 the taken leg the veteran the life the enemy is
 the same enemy as I the enemy is different the enemy is
 woman the enemy is time I no longer
 grow old

Looked out the window pane at nothing
 nothing
 from an armed chair for hours and days like silence [you can fly]
 like what were once birds [you can fly]
 and the clouds were all one and there were no trees
 like I remember

One thing becomes another the trees
 were pulled from the ground and burned a wet white smoke
 progress is a farm the encroach of civilization
 [no] [yes] the divided
 the democracy is a republic is a polity [said]
 the chaplain

DEAR SENATOR

Your hair is thin
 your face has wrinkled in twenty years
 you do not seem to be one of the aggravative ones
 you are cooperative
 I notice
 apologies I cannot say which side I usually vote
 are there not two [question] sides

DEAR SENATOR

Are you the type that stays until the day you die
 I like that type
 patriots
 but some grow tired I understand want to spend time with their family

DEAR SENATOR

Have you ever been alone in the senate chambers
 just looking around
 writing a poem writing a book
 thinking about society civilization one's hometown
 ask oneself
 is there a rule a policy an order which has mattered
 [you ask me]

DEAR SENATOR

What is the nature of change is it natural is it
 leadership
 [that is an eastern response] [that is a western response]
 I vote
 nor wonder too greatly about that which
 cannot be undone
 I say
 I am great enough I speak clearly I speak for others
 I hold some things close
 I hold some things in silence

THE DIVISION OF LABOR

The one who says so said so
that is alright
you get off at five
you can go get a burrito
I know it is only three just
do what you have been doing
because the one who says so
said so
and he was not smiling like
sometimes

PEACE ON EARTH

The nuclear capacity of
 the four hundred block of Main Street
 is a concern to
 the governing council of East Elm neighborhood

They promised the reactor would be shut down
 it melts frisbees for God's sake

A handshake
 because it melts frisbees for God's sake

And the grass o the grass

The mayor was having a large tumor removed
 from his groin
 could not intervene but
 the Lieutenant Governor o the Lieutenant Governor

A handshake
 end it and some of those age spots will go away too

Resolved to the credit of the Governor and
 the President and
 all of the school age children having formed a watch and
 a marching band

I WAS BORN WITH THIS SKIN

I was born with this skin
 the color the intervening hairs
 the occasion of freckled spots
 the surface of being of representation
 has kept pace with an internal
 stations

All of the photographs for time
 the matching relatives
 I was born with this skin
 called philosophy called voice from within
 lit candles
 allowed for raindrops against

Touch
 the sun the radiation sun the sunburn
 the air the direction of the air
 I was born with this skin
 called it myself
 identity

The leaf the feather is a prod
 a survey for information a sentinel
 I was born with this skin
 and all it covers all it contains
 fits neatly fits
 a remaindered I

The red lips for language
 for kissing
 exclaiming proving true one thing and another
 I was born with these lips
 colored for the inside of me and
 soft

THE HOLLOW

The hollow smell
 was sterile and coffee on the outside
 the May rain cold occasional drips the dark sky
 echoes
 props the newly full residential grass
 the interior of life a simplified absence
 cause for tomorrow I do not know
 justice is a tick brought from the forest
 I see
 your calling is the absorption of mine
 even the small especially the small
 but there is no micron to stillness to weather
 were I not aware
 in the absence of words I invent words
 call the horizon a day's becoming when I was
 otherwise waiting for its approach
 and now the hollow sky is balance to my own
 skin
 contains me lets me forward like a monitor
 is a flower for attention a wildflower against
 the patient prairie for longer days yet

Everything is hollow
 [the hollow ring]

Everything is hollow
 is a sound a distant engine causes one to think
 of engines
 there are no birds singing today
 but the clock
 the interior of time is hollow is filled with questions
 and the day rain done the night will open
 I say like control
 the hollow of systems the hollow of political systems
 I catch myself leaning
 to the left logically to the left
 arrange for a familiar answer and call it memory
 what good could I do is cause for a perpetuation of
 dereliction
 do I not call upon certainty wait for certainty
 accuse certainty interrogate certainty

THE SORROWS

The sorrows for loss
 for having behaved without regard to orthodoxy when is said
 apologies
 what defiance is
 a reciprocate to the rush of one friendship
 for the loss of another
 ask
 what measure is my own station my own personality
 the way I am
 may be reason enough an answer to why but say sorrow
 upon the natural course of being when illness and age make
 those I care about weathered and withered when those I care about
 ask questions of importance
 loss is a windowed box
 I am protected I have language enough to be protected

Regret is my own I have no regret for others
 regret is not sorrow
 humiliation is something I can laugh at tomorrow or the next day
 but sorrow
 sorrow is deep sorrow is kept
 holds currency my reaction is a custom I invent
 how you live is my attention how you die is how I die
 but that is only loss of life and I can prove nothing then
 was an answer to love I say I am slow
 enough to offer a passions [now]
 was an answer to luck my attention is too close to chance
 was a health a body
 was it not fun [question]
 was a legacy trust me about the burned poems

The sorrows for loss
 your agency is my agency I can only say to myself what

Your sky is the same as my own

I do not know what I am given to

No

I have no questions

MOM

May 13, 2018

Attractive
Spirited
Adventurous
Kind
Inquisitive
Stern
Creative
Lovely
Buoyant
Hearty
Down to earth
Open minded
Forward
Clarifying
Spacious
Integral
Tasty
Divine
Devout
Family
Athletic
Observant
Colorful
Appreciative
Generous
Insightful
Careful
Caring
Liberated
Graceful
Adaptive
Willful
Trustworthy
Interior design
Capable
Fair
Energy
Peaceable
Appetite
Confident
Talent

THE VORACITY OF LOVE

Kindness and giving
 and were it a moment decided to understand the cause of love
 nor love itself
 the development of one's habits is a life station
 the social intersections of actions are opportunities
 what is attractive
 such a measured appearance such a measured presence a voice
 respond
 and to say a [thing] is received is swallowed is assumed
 in a way respond

The voracity of love is a cake is a vista is a tickled humor
 gave a light a poem for what friends do
 nor count nor balance
 at what instance will one declare another a spouse ask
 were it convenience cooperative convenience
 were it the voracity of love in which there is an entry into
 a well of souls a well of optimism a well of curiosity
 apart from the homiletics of peace among one another say
 there are trivialisms and obligation to a union
 [I do not remember]

A membered pact with no explicit constitution
 kindness and giving
 [they never left a home] [they formed a new language and never left a home]
 intentions are the limits to which one allows
 and learning to receive in balance
 is common declare one has never been in love [but this is love]
 [because one declares love]
 [that is all]
 [it just took a moment]
 [to compliment the cotton floral dress]

SO HOT THE CACTI BUZZED

So hot the cacti buzzed
 chorus
 the stopped birds the quieted insects
 nor breeze

ALL OF THE CLOUDS ARE GONE

All of the clouds are gone
 went away to the mountains
 thinking until they are done thinking
 the sky is a lake

WATER FROM THE EARTH

Filtered
 surfaces before civilization
 crystal and ground cold the spring
 water cress

ALL THE OPEN DOORS

Stillness perspire why it is I choose
 to be without conditioned air
 [it feels like Israel] [I have never been to Israel but it feels like Israel]
 and hot tea on a hot day is temper to

THE ADJUSTMENTS OF WANT

I had not considered a funerary plans a cemetery
 in just a moment someone
 will own what I have owned I have not decided
 if I am old yet

DO NOT GO BAREFOOT ON VOLCANIC CINDER

Volcanic cinder red
 walks like beach sand red
 little pointed pokes red
 ponderosas on hills of cinder red shards

A TREATISE ON UNDERSTANDING

Experience
 put together all of the words mother father
 and when I returned to innocence
 I had no more questions

A TREATISE ON LAW

Natural law common law canon law [there is no responsibility to natural law]
 reference
 natural law cannot be broken [they lit a candle]
 got into real estate

A TREATISE ON AGING

It was not until the children had children
 it was not until a fortieth birthday said a body questions [this]
 it was not until [they] made sense said
 courage is growing old

A TREATISE ON EDUCATION

Experience was never intended for institutions
 and everyone needs to read and everyone needs to know fundamental math
 they brought lions and elephants to the local zoo
 we all walked in a line so as not to get lost

A TREATISE ON ASTRONOMY

There is one thing you all should know
 constellations are not the same from every position in space
 it is cold and there is no air in space
 one must bring their own culture there is no culture to colonize

A TREATISE ON ELECTORAL POLITICS

Government is dead to me it was my candidate lost
 whose turn was it anyway
 eventually I speak for myself do I not speak for myself eventually
 requires no license to speak aloud

INHIBITIONS EXHIBITIONS

The exhibition's reception was cause for inhibition
 stole her art away to the basement
 turned to science
 let away science a second time for approach this time
 the tie dyed wire spectacted
 [them]
 invited her for another exhibition another exhibition
 unto the exhaustion of art itself

FUNCTIONAL ART

O what a beautiful can opener does it work

The reimagined surface of the bird feeder is function

My what a lovely sink you have and a toilet to match

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Had a thousand eyes a thousand retinas
 the subject is red is animal
 in direct sunlight with a white underside if it is prodded up
 photographers are not supposed to prod things up [question]
 [for then]
 [they become artists]
 [forensic]
 [photojournalists]
 smell is difficult to capture on film was a yellow air to the anomaly
 I cannot explain
 but the sky is typical the clouds are typical
 a hundred foot radius the tamped grass the laid down grass
 I cannot explain
 but there it is just like the picture

CRYPTIC ART

Graduated from a public high school realized
 had never been introduced to crypticism
 it is so easy to make something for a few few
 for oneself

The message is love if you look at it from the top
 the message is deviance from the bottom
 a force likened to a blood orange tree with bony branches and crosses
 to see it naturally

I hang it in my guest bedroom
 the colors match the linens no it is not for sale
 it is a warning of urgency it is a warning of time
 it is combustible

EXPLICIT ART

Sex on a canvas
 but they were in love they rubbed around in paint
 until they had to shower

Murder on a canvas
 the man ate a child filmed himself eating a child
 like he had done this before

She wore no costume to the ball in fact
 she wore no clothes at all
 but a mask but a tiara

Is an instructional video the gardener the salmon fisherman
 art of art the representation of art is science
 [how] is it that oil is changed o lament and I with questions

The ocean on canvas
 at sundown the backlit waves but that is the west for sunrise
 what you call a [thing] is to suppose to figure

IT IS NOT OUR WAY

In which the moon is more important than the sun
it is not our way
in which words are more peaceable than silence
was a stranger's custom the allowance of social might
the development of social might
a king within every fence
it is weather which opens and closes these doors
it is not our way
in which time is counted separates itself into lives
liberty is no appointment
but by foot

THE SUN GREW HEAVY

The sun grew heavy
was born the moon for midnight all of the animals the greens

There is no consolation to want to longing but to say riddle
there are problems

Again the spring returns nearer to admiration
the animate wind

The weight of the clouds is a lake let down
fast [fast]

Pools the open sky the gone clouds the ministries of the open sky
there are problems

And in the Book of Want
for their trespass is reason

I shall return I shall return to lift you
to notice you to lift you

HALF AND HALF

Is a question of math is a matter of discern
 logic
 the brought justice from common adversaries was
 an equal profit an equal gain
 and that was only a half the population with interest no
 all are interested
 for to say the unsigned half are affected
 and with no title to gain say actually lose by *their* contract
 the limits of a contract are to its members
 and were a governing half representative in contracts
 and the receptors of the ends of a social contract
 called citizens called benefactors
 say a promise has been made representatively
 it is possible to profit from injustice and were there such a profit
 call it right for the good it has accomplished unless to say
 it caused harm
 half of a population fear governance mention freedom
 again and again mention freedom carry weapons
 in the interest of a common good called freedom
 marry a constitution
 recruit
 half of the world is just I do not know were it
 mother or father
 half of the world honors a social contract half of a population have
 a book shelf
 reference a contract for it is a proper way to exist to live
 and were life the only inherent goodness
 acknowledge the life of another in its varied forms
 nor mention punishment nor mention intentional damages
that is a matter for authority
 half authorize authority half vote half pay taxes half
 serve as jurists
 half the world in light is God's burden
 say free will and the expression of free will is
 half the world entertained half the world handled half the population
 assume an advantage
 is not natural authority but it *is* natural authority
 half of a peoples work hard say diligently make a contract
 suffer a contract
 half of a peoples suffer the contracts of others half of a peoples
 believe in free will

THE MURDER OF CROWS

The murder of crows
spilt paint on the horizon consumed what others consumed
in a word
caw
black and black obsidian
the single hawk with no dietary interest

THE GAME OF QUESTIONS

Assume there are no answers there is no genius
 no egg
 how does one begin
 how can one have a favorite color
 liminal thoughts the clouds the empty sky for thought
 now
 what is a controlled burn the prairie when I smoke a cigarette
 did someone just get married
 did someone just have a baby
 assume there is no reason there is no constitution there is no anarchy
 assume there are no assumptions
 how is it that peace begins how is it the city planners say museum
 [then]
 what color were within the folds of her dress if she
 pressed her lips against a window would I do the same
 I cannot ask of time but rivers
 [confluence]
 did he not buy a motorcycle on his sixteenth birthday
 what of cheap stained glass purchased outside the Lorraine Hotel in 1999
 what of rice krispie treats with skittles sold outside a Grateful Dead show
 [on a day too hot for marshmallows]
 do I not belong to the brethren of two
 what are your affiliations
 can you color between the lines if given a coloring book
 did you vacuum before the guests arrived
 do you eat the eggs you color on Easter what is it with the Easter bunny
 [Santa Claus]
 did you know the game of want [always ends in sex]
 the ocean is a question is not the ocean a question
 what do you know of the virtues of injustice the inevitability of injustice
~~who would rather suffer injustice than be unjust~~ [Plato]
 what is minimum wage
 what are the conditions to mathematics at night
 do you know the way to San Jose
 did the journalist get shot like the other journalist got shot
 is it happening again [like fifty years ago]
 what qualifications does an historian require
 how about sleeping under the stars tonight
 honey what about salmon honey what about dill honey what about riesling
 does your cat do that too
 do I mention a criteria for friendship or assume [such]

BEAUTY IS A LIFE

Beauty is a life
 was at once small and wise grew into questions
 a family with her own way
 say time changes nothing really one
 becomes the arrangements of what one surrounds themself with
 okay I say okay is no defeat but acknowledge
 a higher force
 and when the lines of middle time write experience
 into one's body
 the questions come again like a hook
 a higher questions these than the academic and vocational protocols of society
 a higher questions that have been asked privately
 since language
 I do not know
 [I do not know]
 but beauty the pleasures of beauty
 made standard made common
 the incidents of notice are those arrested for their poverty
 [no]
 the incidents of notice are that which have been described
 a thousand ways already
 the incidents of notice are that which defy description
 generate dialogue generate desirable emotions
 become
 the internalization of beauty
 beauty is a life
 for what one is the composition of one's soul has taken [this] long
 and silver hair and proper jewelry with semi precious stones
 asking for answers still
 say time changes nothing really less than certainly

I NEVER SAID UNCLE

I never said uncle
 I ran out of money
 had to lie to get a loan to get home from the pacific northwest
 never used another's name another's identity
 whether I returned home stationed new habits called life
 assume there is a nether force
 without membership to us expects
 we come together in some measure of defiance
 the tornado
 the rumbled thunder lasted five minutes I have no basement
 but to be among
 the candle neared its end spattered and the gone flame

Be brave in time
 the horses are not new but to be taken

The van with the bed in the back is a lonely cottage after
 its start
 whether people return as animals
 religion is a mighty source a mighty influence clap
 another candle and another candle ad infinitum
 the faculties the divisions of knowledge let some away
 like the specialization of labor
 but the whole of the university generates a many sided interest
 one is required to eat to sleep
 I still believe heaven is up
 the twisted arms of youth snakebite go away snap
 then
 I am an elder and certain for others

THE DINOSAUR COLLECTED NEWSPAPERS

The dinosaur collected newspapers
rested them in his garage near the motorcycle

Was twenty years of planning decided to fix the motorcycle
himself

Then put it away
where it was near the article about the school shooting

There is a measure of order a measure of value
to this news and this news

It is clear enough to stay outside all night
it has not snowed in winter since the end of the mesozoic era

Skin is skin is scales held a fountain pen
answers the populist questions for their uncertainty

They are young
he bought a bicycle to ride around the block to coffee topless

This was an ocean long ago and with fish
crustacea the size of a Volkswagen

The natives floated about on rafts made of mesquite until
they were let down on mountain tops

It was I who swam across the border
back and forth and back and forth pedaling one kind of silver for another

The virtue of disease is alien contact
education is a force inherited from strangers with or without their intentions

June twelve of nineteen ninety nine was a good day
the yellowed page a picture of a friend riding a horse

Died young shortly after in fact
had graduated early from dinosaur school with a degree in journalism

The others do not know he would say
unless we tell them

MOTHER'S MOTHER [1]

Sometimes when one believes they are right they are not right
 Norway brought proverbs from southwestern Wisconsin Mississippi River

From Montana traveled east passing the westbound others landed at St. Olaf
 traveled east then met a man called Grandpa

Gave birth gave birth gave birth gave birth
 social work is a matter of learning to assume hugs for one's girth

That old horse that old car
 all of the [things] the [associations]

It was I came around for memory her silver hair now
 brought jacks and Beetle Bailey

Grandpa passed away in the eighties God bless his soul
 she learned to drive in her seventies God bless her soul

Was Crystal's sisters Sy and Pru took me to breakfast after his funeral
 made me comfortable

She kept the summers on the Mississippi kept the winters in south Texas
 a matriarch an elder say strong like North Dakota like Montana

Was her character told in later age to wander from her senior home
 strangers are no replacement for life

And when she did pass it was the blue dress she is rested in
 God bless her soul

And for the rest of us say five grand children eight great grand children
 the brevity of time is countered in legacy

BUMBLEBEE

Bumblebee for flight
Slow pollen bath another
Flower bound and buzz

PEDIGREE

Fitted a breeding
To place man as God o life
The generations

Dog the penthouse dog
Colored like calico cat
Watching the pigeons

Running horse the track
Colt a winner's son talent
Rapt in mud jockey

GRUMPY

O time and again the frustrated weathers
 was hot damn hot
 hot enough to cause a delinquency a neglect of spirit
 [I have no control]
 for them and them language is not enough
 and I am no taxi driver to solemn acquaintances like obligation
 just to draw a line
 curl one's features into a fetal position
 turn off the phone
 the grass is too long the mosquitoes are starting
 [what control exists is in another place I respect]
 had a long day did not sleep last night not hungry
 it goes away
 I have been through this before

I have been through this before
 o time and again the frustrated weathers
 the rumbling thunder was a truck the sky is ambient the sky is good
 just checking
 [they were concerned the phone was off]
 I cannot wait for the rain
 [listen]

The talent to falling asleep is to do a load of laundry
 the talent to returning to a positive spirit is eating properly
 is it sexist for me to recognize *she* eats properly

The fallen soldiers recognized on Memorial Day
 [the world]
 the world is a big place [I have no control]
 I have seen pictures of war God forbid sensationalism among
 hardship
 I have seen pictures
 of glaciers rivers meadows with wildflowers
 [I lept into the Mediterranean in my underwear]

I just need a moment for history to decide
 just a moment
 [still calculating]
 thank you
 o time and again thank you

BALANCE IS A SWAY

Balance is a sway
atween history and philosophy
many and one
temptations
the stopped air
politics is a sway is a balance
the majority are not always
victors
the aristocrat the oligarch the button
but a conscience
conscience is a sway
the cable spanned the cañon
the stopped air for nerves
o desire
stabilized upon one's knees
and lay down flat against the stars
watch the world turn
vertigo
[in his head]
for indecision vertigo in his
head
nor a single question
nor a single question like
tomorrow
nor a single question

SLIME

Slime
Dripped from his ears like
Calculus
And certainty
Colored red like that star
[That]
Captured him captured his imagination
Laid him flat at night
Watching dreams
Of a liminal place constructed
Without words

REHEARSING FOR THE WORST

Man is flying thus
 man is meant to fly
 really it is safer than driving statistically speaking really
 the plane lifted reached altitude bobbed without turbulence
 okay
 without incident
 the idea of aeronautic violence
 the trust in the mechanics of air travel the trust in pilots
 controllers
 it is a clear day everywhere in the United States
 the hot air from the terrestrial surface mixes with the cool altitude air
 the farms the roads little lines and squares of green
 they put three thousand pounds extra fuel in
 said the captain
 may be a storm developing over Dallas
 circumnavigation is a wobble and descent and a lean to the right
 followed by a sweep to the left
 okay
 a good barbecue airport restaurant in that terminal a three hour layover
 they read
 they sleep
 they drink
 on the plane they read they sleep they drink
 the unruly passenger just wanted another drink said the news
 the familiarity of keeping time
 approaching sundown touchdown mindovermaterial the security of
 the baggage claim is a measure is a confidence

THE SOCIOTROPES

The sociotropes
grew into conversation fled conversation
as the gravitropes resist gravity
as the phototropes
form into the sun
there is a causal relation
the suffered mind is a suffered seed lent to an environment
is a demonstration said the lawyer
nor matters were there a soul watching
the switch from parental dependence becomes the line of force
is autonomy regards the surrounds of society
[but his was a cottage in the country]
[on occasion he would hear an airplane]
[his was away]
independence is governed for most
a job righteous enough stable enough to no longer
wonder at one's emptiness
grew directly through society like a flower through soil
to where the sunlight assumes
a maturation
hindsight is an institution that no longer
matters

GROTESQUE: THE CHIMERA

Wandered through the underbrush upright
on two hooves
touched
and with goat horns
and with wings which cannot bring flight
happily the berries
to not be seen
guarding away the dragons the foulness of despair
darkness
and with no language but thought
for each moment
of eternity
conscious

I WILL BE HAPPY WHEN I AM AN OLD MAN

It will not be suspenders
but a hat for character and plaid
I suppose
and for thought to edit the poems of a lifetime
was a hummingbird stared me down that time
just like some old ladies some old men
who have practiced a line of sight
I will tell you
my eyes are hazel and I am comfortable in the watch I wear
when I check the time in your presence
practicing the remains of the last modernity
I will be happy when I am an old man
it rained
it rained and I paid no attention but the smell
in twenty years the rain will be
a rehearsal
o God mentioned once I say and with reference and to myself
I have finished asking what beauty is
have I not finished with certainty
have I not reasonably become
have I not finished asking myself questions
the books on my shelf have not been read
and room
for a friend a recommendation
a friend

