



L I T H I A S A N S

G r e g M a r k e e



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protoHouse press
MADISON

[from lithia] IS WICKED'S HOLD

[tool]

I CONTEST YOUR ERRANDS

THE INTENTION OF THE CATEGORICAL

THE FREQUENCY OF VOICE

[the voice is loud and with conditions]

THE FAMILIAR AND

I HAVE NOT BEEN

TO YOUR PLACES

[and listen for your voice]

[your model]

AND I UPON TWO FEET

[NO VEHICLES ARE PERMITTED]

AT A PACE THAT IS

SLOW

YOU OUTPACE ME

[I have yet to be conditioned]

THE ACCEPTABLE YARNS

[lore]

COME FROM NO

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT [there is no executive]

[islands]

I TOO SPEAK ELOQUENTLY

I HAVE A VOICE THAT

HAS NEVER BEEN CONTESTED

[silence cannot match silence]

I AM NEARER TO

CAPTURE

THAN I THOUGHT POSSIBLE

[I am the first to retain myself]

I AM NEARER TO

CAREER

THAN I THOUGHT POSSIBLE

[when certainty is push]

HE SPOKE OF THE
FACULTIES
EACH ENTERTAINED AS
A UNIVERSITY I ENTERTAINED

[there are smaller and smaller worlds]

[I do not know size]

NOR HAVE I WORKED
SYNCHRONOUSLY
THEY ARE VOLUNTEERS

[ambition is vocation]

AND I DO NOT MEASURE
AND I DO NOT ESTIMATE

YOUR SHALLOWS ARE
MY COMFORT

WATER MAY BE A DIVIDE [physical separation]
WERE FENCES MY PATIENCE

[there is no idea to address]

[nor is there sound to respond to]

AND TO FLOAT UPON WATER
HELD ALOFT
I SHALL MAKE PLANS

[original]

WITH SNACKS

I WILL SHOW YOU HOW
I AM CAPTURED

THE SHOES WORKED
THEIR WAY INTO HIS HEAL

[soul]

NEAR THE ACHILLES TENDON
THE SHOES WERE FOR APPEARANCE

[what worlds are stillness in their path]

NOR HAD THE SHOES
EVER BEEN COMPLIMENTED

TO BE STATIONARY
STILLNESS

[stillness is a thought exhausted]

APPEARANCES AND ECONOMY

THIS IS A YEAR

[so too shall pass]

THE PLANET NEWS-IST

CANNOT KNOW THE

STORY IN WHOLE-NESS

[HE MIGHT AGREE]

[that a world's parameters subscribe to a different geometry]

SOME OF THEM SWITCH

INTO

SOME OF THEM SWITCH

HE MIGHT AGREE

MY OWN LITHIC ANCESTRIES
WERE SUFFICIENT

[I am brought with conditions]

I MAINTAIN MY BODY
WEIGHT

THE GROCER

THE SHOE SELLER

THE BOOKSELLER

[intervals for my acquaintance]

THE CARTUNER

INTERVALS

[I wear a watch]

WHAT OTHER

NOTES SHE KEEPS
LIKE I

AS A WRITER

[I have no other identity]

MINE ARE SPIRITED
AND TURNED OVER UPON THE LAST

[these are poems]

YOURS ARE AS YOU WISH

[and different than poems]
[if to wish their separation]

AND A VOLUNTEER
I AM

NOR SUPERHERO I ONLY
SEE

[address]

I VOLUNTEER

[I am a courier]

I CARRY YOUR IMPORTANT CASES

LITHIC THE WEAPONS [carries a stone carries a pen]
THE WEAPONS IMPRESS
WHERE MIGHT THEY ACQUIRE

GAMESMANSHIP FOR POLITY
POLITY OF MIGHT
EXCLAIMS MONEY

[I do not bury money I leave money active]

MONEY IS KINGDOM
THEY BUILD TOWERS
TRANSPORTATION IS PUBLIC

[money is agreeable]

[communication]

[the electoral money]

AND EDUCATION IS PUBLIC
EVERYTHING IS PUBLIC
THE ATMOSPHERE IS PUBLIC
THE STRATOSPHERE

[the sky is given a name]

[to be understood]

[the sky cannot be purchased]

[like language is purchased]

EVERYTHING IS PUBLIC

[if language]

THEY HOLD MEETINGS

THEY FORM PATTERNS

THEY DESIGNATE DESIGNEES

[command]

THE SUBORDINATED SUBORDINATES

IN UNISON

THIS IS NOT A STORY

THERE ARE NO

CHARACTERS

TIME DOES NOT PASS

[I wear a watch for certainty]

I AM THANKFUL
I AM THANKFUL
NEED I BE MORE THANKFUL

[God]

THE PUBLIC FACILITIES
THE FREE FRUIT
THE FRUIT IS FREE

[the horticulturist is a changer]

GOVERNMENT IS ERRAND
THERE IS NO ONE TO GIVE MONEY
TO

[money is thus accomplished]

THE ELECTIONS ARE
HELD AT PROPER INTERVALS
[MEASURES]

[errant money is recalled]



THE BALMED DAY
THE DUSKLY DAY
[THE SUN WITHDRAWS]

[memory]

PARK BENCH PICNIC TABLE
THIS IS NOT LAND'S END
NOR DOES LAND'S END EXIST

[the globe is catalogued in clouds]
[with winds]

THE LIKENESS OF PHILOSOPHY
TO ITSELF IS
UNMISTAKEABLE

[again stillness is invented]

THE WORDS ARE TREASURES
WITHIN A CHEST
[PUBLISHED]

THE AUTUMN INSECTS

THE MEADOW

WITH THE COLDING [soon]

[soon there will be frost]

FOR SOUNDS

[the smaller sounds when the leaves are gone]

DESCRIBABLE SENSATION [skin]

PERCEPTION FINDS A WAY

[I am not done]

AND SELF DETERMINATION

WHEN OTHERS ARE

DETERMINED

[I too am on a line]

I STAY CLOSE

AND WATCH

[SILENCE] [when the copycats] [the copycats]

THE COIN ON THE GROUND
THE COPPER COIN
THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS COPPER

1981 WAS THE END
OF COPPER PENNIES
ALSO THE MELTING POINT
1,981 DEGREES

[fact is not the same as truth] [necessarily]

I KNOW OF NO
SECRETS THAT ARE
ADVERTISED

[I too carry subtleties]

THE HUSH FELL OVER
THE CROWD
THE SECRET ESCAPED

[a whisper is not the only way]

MATERIAL IS GLASS

MATERIAL IS STONE

[AIR IS MATERIAL]

[MONEY IS IMMATERIAL] [and close to philosophy]

SURROUNDING SYSTEMS

THE THOUGHT-ISTS THE

THINKERS

[the economist] [the parameters of the economist]

[rice for vodka]

[do I wear colors in a way]

[question]

COST IS COST

THE THINKER

HELD OUT

[I have never considered switching teams]

HANDWRITING HE BLED
STABBED HIS WRITING HAND [index finger]
WITH PIN

HANDWRITING HE BLED
TOOK HIS PEN AND
CONSTITUTIONALIZED [AGAIN]

[the title of his memoir is conclusive]
[there is no contest to a reign as ended]

HANDWRITING HE BLED
ONTO THE PAPER THE COLOR
OF HIS OWN INTERNAL SELF

HANDWRITING HE BLED
AND AM CONNECTED WITH
THE HEAVENS
THE CLOUDS AS EQUAL

[death]

AS EQUAL THE HEAVEN
TO THAT WHICH DOES
NOT NOR CANNOT ASCEND

[height is no limit]

[a mountaintop is no place to rest]

NO
THERE BE NO PLATONIA
EITHER

AND YET CONTINUES
HIS WRIT
UPON WOOD MADE INTO PAPER

[good paper and for sale]

AND THE INK
I CANNOT SMELL

THE BEER
WAS FRIGERATED [homemade]

AND PUT INTO A
BACKPACK

THE HIKE
[the short walk to the opening]
THE TEMPERATURE

ROOM TEMPERATURE

FIVE MILES THERE AND BACK

[I am not a painter]

[I put in no lines]

[BROAD STROKES]

ACCUSTOMED
TO A PARTICULAR
FOOD

[culture]

ACCUSTOMED
TO A MANNER OF WAKING
IN THE MORNING

ACCUSTOMED
TO MY SELF WITHIN
MYSELF

[I am not challenged]

ACCUSTOMED
TO AN IDEA

[what is my own]

[IDEA]

THE BICYCLE LAY ON ITS SIDE
THE RIDER
WAITING TO MOUNT

FALL TEMPERATURE
TRANSPARENT AS A
PHOTO

SHOW WHAT IS NEAR [the camera]
THE FAR WILL REMAIN
MY APPROACH

[curiosity]

HORIZON I NOTICE
AS THE SUN OVER
YOUR SHOULDERS

[you are not actually present]

[what is upon a path]

THE RHYTHMS I
LIVE AMONG [were my purpose to mention]
[the sociologist]
AND SPECULATION

THERE ARE ORBITS
GREATER THAN I

AND HIDDEN AND TEMPERED
AND MOVED BY FIRST
CAUSE

AS I HAVE BEEN MOVED BY
FIRST CAUSE

[SLID

[whether struggle is means to my strength]

[AND STILL

YOU MOVE ME TEMPORALLY
AS WELL
A BODY

AND WITH MY APPETITES
I CANNOT AFFORD

[time is a trust]

[ILLUSION]
THE APPETITES CAUSE FOR
REASON

LUST IS SUMMONED
IN TIMEFUL WHORLS BACK TO ZERO
AS SUMMER WILL COME AGAIN

[for a moment]

THE TURNS

[is it my turn once again]

[question]

ILLUSION IS NOT REAL

AND NO LESS POSSIBLE

TO KNOW BEAUTY

TO WANT BEAUTY

I STAY

[emotion is remaindered to the poets]

THE CATALYST

AND SEEING THE

EVIDENCE OF FUTURES

YOU ARE REAL

AND I CAN ONLY PROVE MYSELF

[what it is I say]

[the photograph]

THERE IS NO EARTH
THERE IS NO GRAVELED EARTH
THERE IS NO FOOTPATH

[I am first]

THERE IS NO SKY TO VIEW
AND TO BE AMONG SKY
THERE BE NO HORIZON

[drift]

AND TO LISTEN CLOSELY
AT WHAT COMPLAINS
WHEN EARTH SUDDENLY DISAPPEARS

[were I convinced it ever is]

AND THE LOUDEST VOICE
IS NOT ALWAYS THE SUFFERING KIND

[I do not know the skeptic's loss]

[at having a world removed]

AND WERE IT ENOUGH
TO HOLD MY OWN HAND

[prayer]

[question]

FOR FRIENDSHIP THEN AMONG MYSELF

I SHARE ANGELS
[DO NOT ANGELS EXIST]
[WITHOUT ILLUSION]

I AM ONLY COINCIDENCE
TODAY
THE WIND RAISES ITSELF

YOU [I CALL YOU BY NAME]
RAISE YOURSELF
AND MAKE A PART
OF YOURSELF MY HOLD

[for my attention is stolen]

THERE IS A LUCKY SENSE
TO INHABIT
AS WINTER NEARS

[enter oneself]
[again]

ACCOUNTANCY IS
CLAIM

AND WHAT IS WIND
IS NO ILLUSION
[FOR TO BE CHILLED IS ACTUAL]

I CANNOT ARGUE
FOR WHAT I DO NOT
KNOW
THOUGH AGAINST PAIN

[a wind bites at fingers]

STRUCTURE THE QUESTIONS
[AND QUESTIONS TOO
DISMISS THEMSELVES]

[eventually when time is null]

THE OLDEST QUESTION
TO HAVING KNOW I EXIST

AND THERE IS NO
ANSWER WHICH WASHES
ONESELF TO ABSENCE

THE MEMORY
ACCOUNT
OF BEAUTY OF CLOUDS IS
APPRECIATION [RESTART]

THE ABUSE OF POWER

POWER IS EMPOWERED

[power]

AND IT IS NO POWER
TO CONTINUE WITH LUST

THE CONSTANT
COMMERCE IS
INTERFERENCE

AND THE PLURAL STANDS OF SILENCE

[anarchy is a word]

AND WERE IT ASSUMED
A CORPORATION IS FIRST A MAN

[idea]

AND ANARCHY IS TOSS
TO ORGANIZATION

———
WHEN IT IS ASSUMED
THAT ORGANIZATIONS
COME TOGETHER

[above one another]

[above one another]

[THIS IS NATURAL
THAT ORGANIZATION
IS ORGANIC AND
GROWS

[dissolves]

[so too is resurrected with memory]

[WERE THEIR
MATERIAL IMPORTANT

ANARCHY IS DEFIANCE
WHEN INDIVIDUALISM IS COLLECTED [CONTESTED]

[a word is required]

AND RESPONSIBILITY IS
A QUESTION TO AUTHORITY

[social structure]

[the imperialists]

A SINGLE MAN
CANNOT DEPEND ON
HIMSELF ALONE

[anymore]

[MONEY AS AGENT
OF LANGUAGE -
OR EITHER
DISPLACEMENT OF LANGUAGE

SOCIAL THEORY IS
RETROACTIVE

AND WHEN THERE IS
ULTIMATELY PEACE
WITHOUT CONTEST

[the poets never did stop]

THE ATTRIBUTES
THE EXPLANATIONS
WERE LENT ONE THOUSAND
YEARS AGO

[reason is aged]

[and to believe in yesterday as lesson]

[WHAT IS MODERN]

[were records kept like I am kept]

[THEY ONLY EXPLAIN]

[THEY DO NOT CHANGE
WHAT HAPPENS]

[THEY]

[THEY DISMISS THEMSELVES]

[THEY]

[the sociologist]

[the sociologist is different from the materialist]

A CORPORATION IS NOT
ALIVE

[contest]

A BODY IS A CORPORATION
[THE ONLY CORPORATION]

[the first corporation]

THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE BODY

THE
SEGMENTED BODY

[into histories]

THEIR SOCIAL STRUCTURE
[I AM NOT AN AGENT]
[OF HEALTH CARE]
[I ONLY RECOGNIZE THE BODY]

[mirror]

HERE EXISTS
THAT WHICH CANNOT
BE TAXED

AND THE UNIFORM
STRUGGLES OF AGING

[the electorals pause at a new epoch]

[WHERE THERE WAS
ONCE FAITH IN
SEVERAL THINGS AS ONE]

AND TO NOTICE THE RAIN
[IT WILL NOT KEEP ME
INDOORS]

[DEFIANCE]

[AND THEIRS WAS AGE]

[AND NO LONGER
PART OF CAUSE]

THE [CORPORATIONS]
CONTINUE REGARDLESS
WHOSE BODY DOES
COMPLETE WHAT IS
REQUIRED

[REQUIRED]

[QUESTION]

AWARE OH VERDANT PASS
THE HIGH SLOPES
I AM NOT BLIND

[the clouds again are my focus]

BUT TO SCHOOL
[carried]
AND EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

THAT POLITIC BE THE SEED
OF CHANGE
[THE GERM OF CHANGE]

[everything is called politics]
[sociology]

YOU ARE QUALIFIED

[you are a cloud]
[a named cloud]

WHERE WERE YOU
WHEN I NEEDED YOU
[I WAS WRITING POETRY]

[to be said aloud]

AND I AM WRITING AGAIN
[again]
I AM ANOTHER
[once more]

I STRAIGHTEN THE WHEEL
THE
DIRECTION OF MY COURAGE

I AM CONTENT

THE LEADERS
ARE EXHAUSTED AND DEFIANT
[THERE WAS AN ELECTION]

MONEYS
ARE GATHERED

PRIVILEGE IS COMMON
AND NOT CONSIDERED
[NOR CONSTITUTION CONSIDERED]

AND TO BELIEVE ONE IS
ALONE
[EVEN AMONG STRANGERS]
I AM PRONE TO ASKING
MYSELF QUESTIONS

THE ARMCHAIR NEXT TO THE WINDOW

[paisley]

THE PORCELAIN VASE WITH THE CURVES AS IF A BODY

[the glass flower]

THE UNLIT LAMP

[the candle]

THE PHOTOPORTRAIT OF THE HOUSE OWNER

[possession]

THE CARVED LEG TABLE

[the red tablecloth]

THE RUG PUSHED UP AT A SIDE

[the squareback chair]

THE POTTED COFFEEMUG

[yesterday's]

THE SQUAREBACK CHAIRS

[one is misplaced in the living room]

I

[I did not shave today]

LITHIA SANS
NOR SALT FOR COMPOSURE

AND THE WATER
IS PRESSED
INTO THE SOIL

[soon it is snow]

THE BODY
REQUIRES
SALT

[the carbon body requires salt]

THE CRISP BEACH AIR
THE POPPING FIRE

[driftwood]

THE WATER LAPS
AT MEMORY
NOR
STRAIN FOR FUTURES

WHEN THE STARS RISE
HIGH

THE HAZED
CIRCLE ABOUT THE MOON
THE CLOUDS WERE GONE AWAY

TIME IS NO LOSS
WHEN TO SPEND IT
IN SUCH A PAUSE

AND I LOVE
LOVE
LIKE IT IS INVENTED

THE FOLLOWING SOUNDS
CARRY INTO
SPRING

[winter is presently ignored]
[the reasonable voice]

NOW A VEIL
SHE WEARS

SLOWLY THE COST OF AGE
IS COLOR

I KNOW NO MORE
THAN TOMORROW'S EDGE

[speculation]

CROSSES ME
LIKE SEVERAL POETS ARGUING

I MAKE LITTLE OF
QUALIFIED POETS

THERE IS NO RELUCTANCE
IN NUMBERS

[reluctance is mine]

THE SINGLE CLOUD
COULD VERY WELL
BE MANY
[I DO NOT KNOW]

[a cloud is not separated]

AND I CAN SAY
NOTHING
IN CERTAINTY

[lens]

[the confident lens]

WAIT FOR NEWNESS
TO BEGIN IN A PAUSE
[LIKE IT DOES]

[how it is I arrive among the past]

THE REMAINDERED WANT
FOR EVERYTHING THAT
PASSES WITHOUT REASON

I RECOGNIZE PAIN
AND I SEE NO PERSON
IN PAIN IF TO HIDE INSIDE OF

[the easements]

AND BEAUTY
AND GIVE BEAUTY A NAME

[poems]

AND IF I AM
GOVERNED BY WORDS
[THEN]

[need I be governed]

AND IF SHE IS
DIFFERENT
[THE ONE I HAVE NEVER
MET]

ASK WHY THERE IS
DIFFERENCE
THAT DRAWS MY ATTENTION

[question]

IT IS REBIRTH
[I SAY I AM NOT DEAD]
[NOR DEATH]

THE NEWEST LIFE
IS SELF AWARE
AND SEARCHING

AND TROUBLE FOR THE
LIFE
PUSHED UPON ITSELF

[to answer one's own questions]

NOR BETTER TO EXIST
NEVER HAVING KNOWN
A BOUNDS

I AM NO DIFFERENT
[THAN THE WEATHER]

[responding]

[responding]

AND NOW A SPELL
TO SAY
EVERYTHING IS PARTED

[responding]

THE DIVORCE
THE CONCEPTUAL DIVORCE

WHO IT IS I AM
[WHETHER A NAME IS SUFFICIENT]

[no]

RESTART
IS CAUSE
FOR THEIR NOTICE

I CANNOT DISCOUNT
THE OCEAN
I CANNOT DISCOUNT
THE SKY
THE NIGHT SKY

[the corporation is inquiry]
[that an actions match what it is surrounds]

[star]

THE MASK OF
SINCERITY
BECAUSE HE WANTED
A BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP

[plagiarism]
[for all he wanted]
[the copycat]

THE BORROWED COINS
HE WAS COLD
AND WORE LAYERS

BUSINESS IS AS PROFOUND
AS ONE FOR ONE

AND TO BE DOWN
AND NEVER GETTING
AHEAD

[THE BEGGAR]

TRADING WEATHER
AMONG THE GIFTED

WHERE JUSTICE HAS
NO METEOROLOGICAL
FOUNDATIONS

IT IS VENGEANCE
WHICH IS IMMATURE
AND STRUGGLE

STRUGGLE IS CAUSED
BY SUCH A MIND
FOR POSSESSION
[INCLUDING THE WEATHER]

[I am at a loss]

[slavery is anyform]

BURDEN LITTLE BURDEN
OH DESPAIR

AT NOT BECOMING
AS LARGE AS PLANET
[I]

THERE IS ONE
THAT BECOMES A PLANET
LIKE THE POETS PROMISE

[who it is I trust]

AND TO LIVE IN
ANY CASE
ARRESTING METAPHOR

[source]

THE AWKWARD
DREAMS
I CANNOT WITHHOLD
INTEREST

[captured]

AND EVERY DAY KINDNESS
[OPIUM]
[STEALS MY LETTERS]
[WHEN IT IS DARKNESS I ANNOUNCE]

I AM HELD
INTO QUIET
WHEN IT IS MY WORDS DO LACK

YOU ARE GENERATIONS
BEFORE MY FRONT
[I STILL CLAIM AUTHENTIC]

AND THE ART SHOW
THEY GATHER
EXCEPTING THE QUIET ONES

[still creating]
[and question whether they ever emerge]
[from]

TIME IS NECESSARY
FOR THE PROCESS OF LOUD ART

[the colors]

WHEN PEACE SETTLES
COLORS
AND THE WALLS ARE IMPORTANT

[the vacant space between is pause]
[rest]

AGAIN AND AGAIN
CULTURE RIDS ITSELF OF
SILENCE
[AND WHY I ASK FOR THE NEWS]

[and rids itself of noise]
[then]
[alternating]

PLANET NEWS
THE PAMPHLET
MENTIONS WAR ONCE

[war]
[march]

THE NEWS IS CONCEPT
AND I HAVE HEARD IT
PREVIOUSLY

WEAR NEWS
LIKE SONG
LIKE IT IS A MEMORABLE
SONG
THAT CANNOT BE
PUT ASIDE
IF

THE WORD PROGRESS

[I challenge progress]
[not a single source is sufficient]

THE OCEAN AIR
DOES NOT FINISH AMBITION

[ambition is a deeper seed]
[peace too does bring]

THE TALL STRUCTURES
WITH VIEW

[glass]

AND HOW THE SHORE
TRIBES
[STILL SAY FOLKLORE]

EVERYONE HAS A PLACE
AND I AM NO DIFFERENT

WINE
IS A STATION

[were it pause]

I HOLD NO CONTEMPT

THE SUNSET

[WHAT CYCLES]
THERE IS NOTHING
WHICH IS NOT A CIRCLE

AND TO START LANGUAGE
AGAIN AND AGAIN
[WHEN THEY HAVE
GONE SILENT FOR AGE]

[the news is not the same]

IT IS BECAUSE

THE QUESTION WAS NEVER
ANSWERED
SATISFACTORILY

THE GERM OF LOSS
IS HOLD
TO INTEREST

[where it is importance be]

THERE IS A LESSON I
FAILED TO LEARN

[and still to relearn humility]

FOR CYCLES INCLUDE DEATH
[AND IF THERE IS A SOUND FOR DESPAIR]

THE FORMS RETURN
INCLUDING MY OWN

[confidence]

[and how it is I plan to live]

WHETHER TO GROW
AMONG IMPORTANCES

[may it be among my control]

I STAGGER

I ARRANGE FOR LOSS

[is loss not among the human condition]

[question]

AND THE SELFISTRY
OF PROVIDING

FOR THAT WHICH IS
NEAR TO MY SOUL
[I AM NOT CERTAIN
OF METAPHORICAL HEARTS]

ADD
IF YOU ARE MY INTEREST
WHAT IS HELD AWAY FOR REASON

TO PROVE CAUSE
IS MY OWN START

[I first move from stillness]

AS MANY AS NUMBERS

[thousand if]

[nor count at greatness]

TOIL
TO EACH THEIR OWN

[is not governed]

IDENTITY IS A MEMORY
I RESEMBLE

AND WHAT I HOLD TO

[having learned]

