

A Comforting Terror

(for Chuck Stein)

Does not come from the feeling
arises from somewhere between
soft cushioned theater seats
and the vampire on the screen.

A stricken etymology of the Tau + error
the delphic E starts off the rumble
mind full of matter's pull.

Presents
not a life-threat but
a presence
Pretty
buttons & stems of destroying angels
so soft, milk white, and deadly
pleasing to the eye
tongue—acid sting.

Or a cute voodoo doll
to take home for a night but
instead it's just to descry
those wonderful curves,
death dealing lines
where pins take no cushion
if it were a victim in its stead
I cannot repeat the points that bled
true roseate display of wonder
in animus, simulacra stuffing,
for real guts

from dreams

A world of wake-believe
shunted desires through a sleep
bound by a crash
where no rest is found
for demons hurl spears & winnowing darts
at trains carrying real aspirations
that cannot stop
or let on

something not
 ever getting off
without the necessary attention
dearly paid for
 or totally cast away
hold tightly, let go lightly and be saved

*Love is a golden bubble full of dreams
that waking breaks, and fills us with extremes.*
by wild means
there is no safety in our encounters
boundaries, simple, that we cannot
cross but in a solvent fluid field

Where stranger love happens
to your world shakes
 beams shoot in then re-align
 some will to a way
 upset to set up new
for the crucial play
that can raise mud up to passion stars
 like nothing else
drifting silt in the celestial sea
we'll never settle.

Possession

Because ownership is in the hands of the Gods
eye made, home grown,

evocation of emotions

The sycamore tree that spreads the old
man's essence from his roots
up from the trunk by the corner of Farm Brook and Wood Bridge
,streets that call up country,
& the creek just at the right level, its flow
gurgle pitched to consume attention
then sooth

as it's all about

forgetting the past

up till caught-by-the-moment(um)

as deity reflects

Enough of not being God

Spheres of love

meet, react to that reaction

Plenitude

if any more can dance through me

I should burst at the seams

Eyes studying, wider and wider till the woods

alive with spiraling

fields become visible

energy grows and rises from

the composting killed floor

The Secret Lives in Cats

Because of hiding
Techniques for exploring coordinates
Gone off track assists the gainstayed
They'll continue to live well
Out of sight, but not too far
Some quarry must be convenient,
Some being not alarmed
The rest in exhaustion

Even the predatory kings let their guard down
As being constantly on high alert is hard work.

A cougar crossing the road on the Blue Ridge Parkway
That was never open in the winter until now,
Golden reddish brown that's felt more than seen,
But not noticed, the nature of camouflage
Makes for hiding in the open possibilities.

Paddy, our prodigal tabby lives up to his namesake
His wiry red coat is smooth and sleek
Even through the padded touch of thick gloves
The thrill of his form communicates
And goes out at night to disappear for days
Only to show up for his canned and processed slaughter
All the while preferring fresh killed mouse
meat but settling for ease of acquisition
, and then out again.

Hunting by eye, playing with prey by ear as a way of survival
Embellished by trial and error in learning
Like breathing,
 Is proof that an innate function
 May be honed as a skill

Gnashing teeth expressive in touching food
Sanguine, juicy,
 Bite, tear, and savor
 Before the final life-maintaining swallow

The coincidence of the wild concealing cat lives
Suggests 9 holds a transfinite number in time,
Unlettered, mythical imprints
Away from warming sunlight.

The wintering trees with leaves stripped down
Show the hidden contours, earth
With death all around exuding a succinct quietude
Her trackers take note of on standby
Cutting through the air,
A murderous scream like a woman's
Is the cat's,
And those who make a step
Beyond that accept
The ground's tale
In embodiment's abandon.

Shining Rock Wilderness Area
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