



Symphony No. 2

(escarpment theory)

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Argotist Ebooks

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*"This singing
is a kind of dying,
a kind of birth,
a votive candle."*

Anne Sexton

*"The irretrievable, passing
The objective immortality of the past
88 pieces of limestone for a sky"*

Charles Olson

*"Perhaps it has no form, we move through it
An indeterminate medium . . ."*

George Oppen

Symphony No. 2

*Symphony No. 2:
A theory wherein
an ontology exists
aware of the unequivocal
life-force coursing within
these conduits of flesh and bone
the intrinsic, relentless
clock throbbing in the veins*

*Yet to exist
insinuates presence:
being
attuned to the nature of its environs*

*Still to seek
to ascertain
an answer
that which only drags the scar deeper
marring the surface of mortality
and its inevitable unknowing
its fate or eternity*

- 1 -

Assign this presence
a theoretical perspective
as those who have lived
decomposing
in doorways
in silent daguerreotypes
those who observe
the amber graves
before there was light
illuminating
gods of dross
or fleshless bones
those who have lived
erecting structures
beyond the means
blood can relay
invariably the equation
lengthening interminability
as one is tasked
to invoke omens
from granite mirrored seas
mottled past (identity)
refusing repose
sleep here in absentia
closed eyelids
rooting the goldenrod
silent wake of dream ebbing

orchids against sea wall swale

- 2 -

Elegy

ageless as
consciousness is
a negation of space
crossing the prescient sill
chaff on a threshing floor
hinged gate
to depth
naked as sunrise
on liquid stone
or constellation drift
through hollow structures
one spoke of a garden
of deities
without proximity
decrying faith
or immanence
of angels
ageless
tongues of fire
grains on sand
or swords
again
to shelter the child
in exile

in shadow
there are visions
foundations on wind
songs to the unknowable
apathetic (night) sky

- 3 -

By morning
incarnadine sun
the swollen tongued sea
the clinging shade
from glass towers
the neon veined gulls
an ancient exfoliating strand
voids in creaseless clock time
an amphetamine emptiness
wherein a philosopher seeks
the vacancy of worlds
words without mourning
an end to indeterminacy
a breath
without presence
emerging from windows
mortality
without blood
dissolving
anvil handfuls of dust

- 4 -

A wolf gnawing
the rancid hare
as the willow blows
a ship on plaster canvas
the eye deceives
the abstracted logic
now a brick wall
a noiseless surface
unforgiving static semantic
a firmamental mortality
dust at ocean's edge
the girth of platonic skeletons
cast before swine
hear a throatless music
a fractal night's lyre
of engines seized
rusted columnar ruins
sculpting
a barren strand transparency
an existential romanticist
articulating uncertainty
starved in a domed world

- 5 -

Speak of passion
of when

the tree is green
a lesser virtue
or a tin veneer
some have invoked
specters
channeled alignments
or nature as transgressor
in a garden
a widow
a belief
that which remains
unspoken
raptures
or silk tapestries
symmetries in a circular room
(what if)
there was meaning
transcribed
in an open book
a moth's wing
torn in the vortex
or an iron sphere
descending into oceans
arthritic extremities
ascending the aging threshold
candle glint
down wintered corridor
what if
having arisen
light retreats

before the ephemeral
carbon vessel
is
a house abandoned
devoured by worms

– 6 –

Isolate this thought
in rooms which face north
the intuitive tessellations
reflecting what is forgotten
how the willow bends
the summer wind
the brief image
to swallow the blackness
the stalking periphery
entombing desolation
within the granite cavity
amber light
through the crow's wing
a jade cliff at dawn
a precipice
of broken bones
beneath a road
shattered to glass
a bleeding sage
a rose thicket
cloistering the skylark's trill

a grey moon
as distant
as a serrated bell tone's
resonating
ambient stillness
throughout a house
a madman lies
dreaming of sleep

- 7 -

Time devours
meaning
through doors
in plaster walls
a firmament
before there was measure
to envision
detached light
trailing through windows
dusk cornices
or silent rationality's
throated sphere canticle
now
a pond in shadow
at noon there is rainfall

- 8 -

Fractal aspects of eternity

embedded in the moth's wing
what must be remembered
returning to the sky
as in
the origins of rain
or bloodless fossils
lost to Neolithic oceans
now roadside detritus
an expanse of thorn fields
a mortal coil
observing the atom
here are theories
consummated
a sapphire skein
unraveling indeterminacies
on an inked wall
in an evening's displacement
the reclusive tongue
the hierophantic alchemist
the imperceptible mountains
traced on sandstone sea cliffs
otherwise there are occurrences
unseen
through darkness
an unframed landscape
a glass coracle
floating in scoured ante-light
a reticular ash pattern
inside stone circles
the black dance

resolving the widow's bane
the angular gaited shade tree
the non sentient
crescent moon glow
the contemplation of mute viols
the silver discs descending
the fluid womb's dissolving
the hollowed ground's iron will

- 9 -

Say there is
no thought
as spiral light
through alcove windows
say there is
no shadow
left to extricate
a variable of longitude
fragrant as nightfall
without infinite perspective
say there is
no resolution
to questions of blood
burning zeros in threaded tapestries
or lines turned to liquid
buried and mute
as the philosopher's corpse
say there is

no veined ivy leaf
covered in dross
or rusted iron silk
thundering echoes
from the sky lemming's glottis
say there is
an adumbrated pale cloud burst
creating a cobalt shelter
where sun
and silent tendons sleep
say there is
negation
created from faces
impoverished images
sewn into a mirror
as seamless
as mortality is
insightful of remorse
divorcing anonymity
from intimacy
say there is
no identity

- 10 -

Speak now of the sea
of fluid gods
coiled in mortal hemispheres
of worm ghosts' burrowing

vertiginous fissures
shredded cerebral dust scars
leavings
on littering wind
on sun scorched strand
here a philosopher
structuring modernity
on the plains of St. Augustine
an untamable id
a fleabane meadow
a cutlass severing
the skylark's wing
a rat embedded in spider silk
delicate ash glass chrysalis
blowing in alchemical breeze
blind sage on plaintive vessel
burning on iron seas
now a peasant dreams
of wingless crows
mourning the skyline ruins

– 11 –

At nightfall
ashen pallor
an ocean
of cellulose limbs
ontology's tenuous loop
to objectify

a fly
on the wall
within a doorway
passive undercurrents
clouds as fable
or dread to dream
of sleep's narrative cavity
a flower
as a dead man's hand
fused to a stone floor
the desiccated asp entrails
the grave measure
the throbbing unanswerable light
sun on occluded eyelid
blinded on thresholds

- 12 -

A definition (of society)
by candlelight
the opiate
in sodden exile
the drawn curtain
lace mosaic draping sills
the inarticulate
iron evening ships
descending
hinge of legend
the gauze of myth

the rapacious slurry moon
the drawn curtain
the lag in apprehension
imperfect as blood flowing
through a marbled courtyard
through the pallid density of flesh
through the distilled philosophies
infinite as the unanswering
zero –

– 13 –

And where the gulls swarm
pavement of grizzled attrition
and where the black hunger clouds
the unfallen disincarnate howling
and where the house burns
flies on closed eyelids
and where the current seethes
the hewn legend buried in steel
and where the wolf scours
the undreamt
cloister of light

– 14 –

Walls wherein
clouds determine
measure

to reflect personas
or incongruities
sifted through boundaries
a picket fence
autonomy
an acknowledgement
to align
the rock face
the fading light
here there are tragedies
to consider
the darkling vessel
the bloodless lament
the steel of gravity's descent

- 15 -

Say there are
many faces
seen through
the sparrow's eye
those who hunt
the sands in isolation
those near the mirrored
exile of autonomy
those who alter perspectives
without thought to transform
the naked veined wintering heart
those of countless hands

who cross themselves
refusing absolution
those who live within
the steel walled
cavities of thought
the rain of abstractions'
reasoning
bleeding through the leafless trees
the sawdust of alphabets
buried by years
cloistering words
in a sword's granite trace
the meatless bones
disinterring their past
the glare where light fails
to inspire
the lark's ascent
at evening's approach
a shroud of belief
secreted blind
immortal wound -

- 16 -

They spoke of dust
of light
lashed at the margins
in a windowless room
a closed door

a wounded stag
unframed on a wall
soon an architecture
where sentience withdraws
meaning

- 17 -

Collapsing wave functions
discarded
from a book of crows
frozen tongues
gnawing the rafters
in yellow attics
a dormouse dreams
now the orchid garden
in twilight
presentiments of endings
of distant footfall
an empty bench
a painting in blue
a severed limb
the grey dogs of Troy
beside a wormless ghost
the savage incarnation
the tacit intention
the seraphic hemispheres
the sinew id corporeality

– 18 –

The figure in gray
the boat's wake
dissolving
many faces
to outlive
the sleepless mirror
the marbled wall
the constellations
drifted nomadic Pangaea
tongued oceans
naked strand
speak the irresolvable
the equation
to dissipate
by dawn
the early rarified topaz

– 19 –

To assume
the platonic
worlds of form
the blight of nightmare
time ships
in glass deserts
a disintegrating hull
in a cloud of reeds

a cloned electron's
differential of physicality
the lucid dredged ocean
the rusted anchor teleology
observing a brick wall
depth in a gauze of nebula
or light of a thousand years

– 20 –

Objects materializing
within inaudible space
the conception
that clouds form
without eyes to resolve
a determinate of meaning
as when the earth spins
the atom decays
the scarred canyon wall
shadowing the cells
in a wolf's ageing blood
none of humanity sees
the putrefied flies
the buried rune clock
impregnating origins
the disinterred muse ritual
illuminating thorn throated plains
where libations
burn mountains

where skulls
tread shattered glass
where imperfection absolves
the cerebral flagellant
the gray ash penitent
the hollow echoed Osiris
the strangled stone landscape
the calcified fissures
a rimmed precipice
where poets are dead

- 21 -

Observing the ocean
through summer windows
the inconsistency
of light
the dryad statuary
eroding to skeletal dust
the rust on anchored faces
scattered athwart furrows
through lace curtains
saffron hues
a winnowing hag's
garden sonnet
beneath the shepherd crook
priapic slugs in colonic dawn
a sterile storm god's fury
entangled entropic carapace

now the brine
of seas forgotten
a disease
redacted on bloodless strands
worm shadows on oceans
conjuring the headless
screeching banshee
by columnar moon glow
the heaping rubble's ash pit
the staid gothic demiurge
devouring stratospheric amoebas
beside the vernal tundra pools

– 22 –

Speak to desolation
formless fomenting river
the cloven hills
of mastodon dung
kindred to untrodden path
hasped vagrant semantic
lost to viscous groundswell
porous figures admonishing
nameless portraits
in mirrors
the gouty throated
vacant scream
through the fog
a bent child of iron knots

chained limb's palsied scrawl
speak to diminutive storms
on philosophic stairs
mute crow on olive branch
speak to logic
to the measured
the weighted
emptiness
the tertiary providence
tonguing gutless silage

– 23 –

Towering cumulus
by nightfall
the leaking siren's wail
chained to the disincarnate nebula
a gray philosopher's penniless dream
a visceral periphery looming
in an unopened book
dismembered skein of cellular memory
here grizzled dogs
in roadside gutters
lions of dead hemispheres
burning in visceral doorways
bones among nasturtiums
a scattered cirrus
before the fallen leaf
a veiled monastery

vespers in peasant cathedrals
a waif traipsing threshold
a fragile bifurcated passage
life preceding form
through the molecule torch
the gothic scarlet arch
the blooded conduit trace
the black edged gnomon shadow
the isolated anthracite mountain
the impenetrable gods
or wind from stone anchors
smoke in fields of gray vines
strangling eye
transcendent in light

- 24 -

Winter deceives eyes
lost in windows
boats are still distant
subjects of interiority
to cancel the zeros
the inverted mind
the quotidian motion
dissolving in gloated faces
decay in liquid mirrors
decay
of crowds
of glass trees

on veneer mantles
the sheep ovum
the welted fetal tongue
the dead spaces
the vermilion thicket
the exhumed crow's eye
through inked doors
decaying eyelids
to calcify distance
distance from
burning corridors
distance from
unraveled pillars
distance from
plasma deities
distance from
immortality's elusive root
dissonant muse
the reclusive shell
buried at ocean's edge

– 25 –

Across night's intestinal cavity
the hounding lunar blizzard
the charred monoliths
black ember mist
doorways
of dust-atom effluent

by candlelight
an oblong table
a dead reflection
a sibylline motion
removed from eyes
a galactic wormhole
an occulted detritus
a window of
a dead crow
a field of rusting lyres
herein lies the intangible
the cerebral piercing lance
the eschatologist
of untenable loss
the blighted vision
upon dismantled continents
the bloated hollow penitent
the solitary litany
the asphalt bilge plaint
the lucid tar plains' ruin

– 26 –

Small rattling hour
within the atom
the ensouled beast
torn from ego flesh
the flagellated clinging id
the cobweb patina

draping the ageing carapace
archetypal facets of diminishment
a glowering holographic fate
colloidal chaff
sieved through distillate seas
here hollow fossil wind
flowing
liquid iron root
within a monad sun
echo limbed incarnation
resonating
ambient entropic outflow
impending nightfall
empty of distance
returning
this touch
burdening
the tulips at dusk

- 27 -

A stone precipice
water progeny
before there was blood
to articulate
the brittle limbed fossil
the cantic talons
the visceral mud fathoms
groping primordial fuse

here to crave the hours
the lion remains
an echo of strata
a tone precipice
beneath the black
petroleum newt
an orchid grows

– 28 –

From the pavement
wakes are seen
at sea
a theory of movement
below a surface
where walls are
composed of doorways
where the rusted cathedral
holds the orchid blossom
where a past tense
appears on mantle clocks
or lamps
languishing in cloisters
a tapestry of darkness
the shuffling footfall
crossing a bridge
by moonlight
there is distance
in remembering

an ocean's calloused eyelid
a language of descent
of furrowed fields'
unearthing
the Orphic abyssal plains
eidetic rune sleep
waking eviscerated sentience
the blind pillars
the burning palace ruins
the transparency
of melted crystal
the fogged vortex ascent
in glassine roads
the fractal wind's
bituminous flesh

– 29 –

Apart from the scarred
destiny
where torn husks
symbolize death
or in another world
of anthracite stairways
stick-figure kings ascend
a scarlet-holed throne

– 30 –

Because there is
a presence to observe
a prism splinters
thoughts of solidarity
because a world lies
within the unthreaded tapestry
a labyrinth is consumed
in quantum chaos
because there is absence
to envelop the darkness
light flows through
the blooded limb conduit
because there are
broken stones at ocean's edge
the nebula reflects
the liquid eye of loneliness
because there is sand
which covers the wounds
the shifting pendulum
slaking the hourglass measure

– 31 –

Socratic gnomes appear
to drown
in granite harbors
yet spirits move
to dissect corridors
though thought

where age encounters death
here the portrait
the framed interpretation
a pretense
rendering
a muted absence
a scullery maid of angles
a placement of oceans
within a plasticized vase
the idle eye
the static measure
the dark night
the equivocal theodicy
the spheres of blood light
dissolving the empirical
gelatinous morphology

– 32 –

From bell towers
the equilibrium
the elemental form
or the tulip
seen through glass hollows
a basis for life emerging
speech from windows
within an amethyst cathedral
a theory of absolutes
transitory as faces

accumulating in dust
the wind deforming
the willow rushes
the archetypes repeat
the fractal patterns
to specify north
between these burnt pillars
the blood of gray suns
the torn sparrow wing
shred unseen wounds
as deities

- 33 -

They entered a room
they heard unwritten words
they talked of abstract concepts
they altered modes of perception
to comprehend
a landscape
repeating at windows
or the slow drones
of monks
chanting in foyers
they talked of oceans
flowing through caverns
of flaming stones
falling from bleeding nebula
they became shades of voices

unseen in daylight
unraveled threads
on asphalt terraces
they hid in the aborted ovum
forsaking the tendoned limb
the laborious breath
the sacred spires
piercing the stratocumulus skeleton

– 34 –

In a meadow
an eschatologist
a burnt book
an ape
uprooting the barren tree
quantum decoherence
in a vacuum
the etheric islands
evading the atom
an eye-entraining
mortality
mining the platonic mountain
shattered fluid limbed modernity
now a granite lighthouse
a leaf on the sea
a sealed scroll interred
beneath the hemlock root
an eleventh page

accepting what is unwritten

– 35 –

From the strand
an apathy of oceans
placid currents
of noonday void
as if perception altered
the effect of diurnal gunfire
or a lament which clouds capture
unframing angular faces
hear a tare leaves
an impression on eternity
a surging measure
a rooftop rain
a passage for masked thoughts
to enter through
the threaded doorway
ascensions on a circular stairway
to view the pavement stains
the cascade of light
parts of an anterior body
through upper windows
as if within a space
a future recedes
to interpret
the swelled crest
at bay windows

surging against the ebb tide
or blue shawls
draping the marble altar
the candlelight vigil
the tapestry of saints
the chloroform wick
burning in wooden coffins

– 36 –

Loss without limitation
or thought on stairways
descending
beneath the willow bark
a winter
attuned to the unwritten
intimacy of desire
a mute snow
dissolving in faces
altered impressions
wedded to abstractions
yet to interpret the sky
telluric contrails tracing
crenulated furrows
movement of sun
without moths of blood
resolving within
the shadow of a dead oak
or in the crook of a sparrow's wing

the steel rails
echoing modernity
endings in rusted waste places

– 37 –

Again doorways
before there was light
the eye abandons
the intimacy of touch
as in dreams
the mountain
signifying realism
as in logic
weighted by sleep
the possibility is measure
accepting the hours
drowned by seas
the ascent of Orion
the constellating voids
from a passing tram's window
faces without music
to reconstruct
the empty book
by nightfall
a cobweb world
entangled in iron grates
a romanticist
a lean skeleton's

amorous didacticism
a space wherein
windows must darken
to betray a transparency
a jaded palatial obscuration
a winnowing breeze
distressing the silk
the scattering
of smoke horizons
to disappear
to fear
an engendering autonomy
to fear
identity
rotting in mill pond effluent
to fear
seething pools forming
a glen of dying daffodils

– 38 –

Speak again of death
of vacancy
deceiving
the meated silhouette's dance
the tongued air
as intimate as aspiration
unspoken
before the corpse

devolving to ash
the weeds remain
oblique layers of strata
knotted to infinity
the ostensible embrace
as in a summer sun
the scorched pavement stain
the moon gnomon shadow
the sanguine runes
brittle bone to parchment cinder
the hare
in the wolf's jaw
perpetuating vanity's bane
as a worm vanishes
across the ageing eyelid
there is dust
the glass chalice
to shatter
the black-spine mirror
worn remote mechanism
a clockwork universe
stored in subconscious oceans
lace helix ship stranded
on petroleum shores
the strangled sparrow
falling through lanternless branches
silent rigid clock face
sequestered corporeal stalemate
enervated icon clinging
light

across vaporous barrier

– 39 –

Cages wherein
minds are sculpted
be it for the greater good
someone spoke
a lucid fragment
approaching the bridge
at dusk
new moon to rise
in a Japanese orchid garden
the colic oracle's
rooting eye
the malleable bones
the buried liquid hands
holding the rotted wooden coil
in yellow gabled attics
now life beneath
the palace ruins
the calloused hand
embracing attenuated statuary
a lifeblood's leaking mettle
shade of the ethereal fosse
dream of the decapitated
nation
drawn and quartered
in austere geometries

the ascending zeros
the swollen veined tongue
the metal of straw dogs
drowned at sea

– 40 –

Axioms
or deep fissures
as once
the flower bloomed
now spindle wind through forests
the freighted varicose boughs
a tottering vagrant poverty
gold embodied wings
encircling the veined fresco
walls of brown grass
a gnawing chaff's
anemic sparrow
the palsied moth
imbibing decay
transposing
a season's death
a facile valence
a remote entropic undercurrent
truncated hymn dharma
the tangled clouds
across medieval rooftops
windows beside the interred eye

now there is grey prose
a nomadic quanta
vast and arcane utterance
dragon lore of fate
the annihilating huntress
haunting the scarlet cliffs

- 41 -

It is now an afternoon
of clay pigeons
alighting gabled rooftops
subtle tundra wind
stirring the bedroom sash
to contend with lost voices
fording the fluid mountain
the raining torchlight patina
on a grey limbed landscape
the archetypal arachnid
entering the marbled palace
here the soul sleeps
to envision
the inked escarpment
lines perpetuating
the shedding of blood
given there is continuance
to encapsulate
a deviating measure
a iron lance

to penetrate the rind
a maimed strangling
entering a dream

– 42 –

What of Kandinsky's task
to frame underlying reality
cloudless abstract storms
imbibing dissonant libations
Blake's archetypal tiger
dissolving on deforested plains
now nascent vision
or hermetic sun drift
through promethean channel
a random fate
an anatomy of zeros
a mask of intimate disillusion
wastrel in primordial darkness
inhabiting this sphere
the porous fleshly vessel
heaving cognitive trace dust
an ectoplasmic vestigial interiority
rotting in metal-
walled cellular crevice
tunneling worms
in anthracite cemeteries
crawling nightshade tendril root
witness to time

glaciations
on flaming cathedral spires
ice over closed eyelids
serpentine helix
calving panspermia morass

– 43 –

Slant roof gauze
through windowed grates
define finitude here
holes in the pavement
the density of firefly drift
the admonition of Isis
porous spires
draining the sky

– 44 –

The lyre's movement
across sundered faces
dark rooted tempest
at dawn
the grey orchid
Leger's tubular humanity
here the subway arches
the gothic worms
the drought of lions
the non sentient gods

the crumbling
stone corpse

- 45 -

What cannot see
is light
entering the window
or to quench breath
at night
drifted from deserts
the finite providence
the sleep of iron
the glass eyelids
beneath the calcified rind
entombed in caves
their phenomena
reduced to equations
here the sightless minotaur
the dissolving labyrinth
the tongue ashen whispers
the stone tower myths
or the perceptible antithesis
of imperfection
bearing the mirrored image
the ascetic weeds
held in knotted breast
the wintered garden
isolation's obtuse terpsichore

transforming nothingness
in hollow words
the glass mosaic scythe
the many days
embracing
the trackless void

– 46 –

Twilight in cupola windows
mute stimulus
to fill the void
articulating the grey tongue
time leaves
inert solutions
a year in storms
an intimate liquid heart
here there are no clouds
or cracks in pavement
diurnal footfall
within the sparrow's wake
as dawn passes
among static nuclei
sky cataracts fall
altering an ocean depth
yet to encounter
seamless voices
infinity echoing
within tubular roofs

iron railings
sheltering sterile hemispheres
words under erasure
constellating enervated autonomy
intimate as sieved outfall
tracing the blemished id
a storm squall's black rain
once Jurassic myths
of distance
or sounds' dissenting
to possess the ineffable
the ghosted limbs
the mutable molecular form

- 47 -

Tasked to interpret
a vulture
etched in stone
cycles transcribing
sentience to infinity
a sage speaking
or smoke
beneath a veiled nativity
in a cavern without walls
thoughts to interiorize
glass owls of the alchemist
behind the oak
a fractal doorway

blistering in remote duration
the possibility
of time
leaking cognitive fissures
a pendulum in the vortex
now sources of closure
circumventing the fray
a centripetal vector
outwardly
the coyote howls
in exile
a lion's prey
ghosted as blood
through phantom extremities
crushed skull chaff
blown to catacomb seas

– 48 –

Arisen before the thorns
voice in absentia
the hollow children
lingering cadaverous sheen
behind razor wire
voided skull integer
burnt sage
for forgetfulness
ancient pyre embers
consuming

the splintered embryo aura
the permeating life -force
the diffuse-eyed interiority
aligned to the somatic zeros

- 49 -

To task the moment
to cohere
to consider a doorway
as metaphor
outside bent grass
in willow fields
clouds as cognitive
structure
torsos in fog
ascending
lag in apprehension
or shadows on brick walls
yet this is not
a scrap of burnt parchment
entombed in a Heraclitian reliquary
or a means
to reduce measure
to the subjective
justification
as the eye is
the interior modulator
tracking a sun's transit

across an ambient hypotenuse

– 50 –

This as an empty room
assimilating presence
in a doorway
the potential for evolution
take this to mean
motion of figures
rendered from a mirror
the weighted pall
redeeming the past
here separation
to not exist
to inform the equations
time leaves
a palpable wake
a dryad girth
in lesser myths
a philosophy
to defy
existence
to define
the non-
Euclidean meter
transparent as passion
a handbreadth of light
or a low bough now

on bituminoid landscape
bounding perception
eidetic candle flame
reflecting the oak sill
image as isolation
eye as entity
to scour the parchment
the scrap redaction
assimilating presence
to mourn the heart

– 51 –

Derision in light
rendered mute
whereas she occupied
a space
between the voice
or the orchid's image
in the lyre's note
not knowing
the hour of death
is
a crossroads emerging
retracing this threshold
here a nightingale
across nine dimensions
a veiled bridge
to ford

a callused seascape strand
wherein her mind is
engaged with mortalities'
measured
clarities liquid atrophy
morphing a reality
observed
at a window
a desert
burning sun
of limbs atomized
in the eye
the sparrow
the exhumed crow's entrails
the scythed trough leavings
the scarred talus landscape
the worm of empty eye caverns
the reticent abraded light
the guttering sublimities
impermeable opiate

– 52 –

There is autonomy
in this
antiquity of light
remember the eye
the tendoned lip
the mute

interred at sea
remember the mountains
the clotting prescience
the tenebrous oracle–speak
rising from the dust crevice
soon a moth through
a window
ragged wing fluoresce
in neon cavities
there to a nature
is this
a hollow steel
clothed with possession
a scouring wind
an interior room
or the voiceless
king or peasant
dead in a sea cliff's sand
blight skeleton
hidden from the sun
a content removed
from empty pages
there is autonomy
in this

– 53 –

No resolutions
to comfort
a corpse

near the river
a thicket
the noon witch
bleating dissention
on stairwells
the viscous demons
imagined by nightfall

– 54 –

Somewhere the nameless pilgrim
misunderstanding another's world
in a wooded glen
hymns to a faceless deity
on a barren mountain
some speak of caves
of repose
of thickets
of a sheep
one who has left the fold
consumed in a burning bush
there are legends
of silver ships
by moonlight
gray torsos in fog
runes in smoke
oscillations which enter
the heart
at twilight

a rose in the heather
illuminating sparrow wing glint
a view from mountain cliffs
those behind
drawn lace curtains
singular in thought
understanding another world

– 55 –

Perhaps an unnamable ontology
one which evokes the sea
ostensibly static
tide at strand's edge
one which turns marble to ash
cavity of quenched embers
bleeding the eschatologist's mind
one which consumes
obdurate essence
entering the abstract
one which breathes
the blood to limbs
Babel's utterance
intoxicating flesh
at death
the sea cliff's veiling
meadow
nearer to the absolute
one which is

hallowed
by poverty of presence

– 56 –

Sand as decisive
measure to sift
through storms at dawn
droning sparrow cry
wood rotting
from empty hands held
in a foreground
a perspective
a wall of granite
a rooting shadow
the gnomon
sun of zero moment
cast in scarlet columns
spirits trampling
the diffuse etude
sun of moment
unredeemable
as another is
clinging to an ecliptic
proximity drift
in this there is
continuance
partial obscuration
and the molecule

is not static
is not relevant
as ocean depth
is a geometry
rooted in faith
without transience
without beatitude

– 57 –

Perfection
as impervious
as voice is
vexed and blemished
thought
evolving to deity
a swallow
through the cloven branch
here has been a cipher
to observe
sky as mute scaffold
dusk to nightfall
upholding
one perception
cleaving
moth to a flame
one perception
clarity
dissolving mortality

a semaphore
a rusted gate
at forest edge
water course bifurcating
telluric current
through a haunted glade
mottled voice
clinging to faith
behind glass towers
opaque eye
spaces coruscation sanctuary
nomadic moon arisen

– 58 –

Death follows
movement through flesh
on a verdant hillside
a shepherd speaks
a platonic teleology
to what is
external
a swan
to touch
a glassine sea
at arm's length
entangling spires
ferrous dripping
in cathedral naves

a prodigal effigy
similitude or parity
unknown
trembling hands
unraveling threads
a tapestry
within a walled garden
a remote passage
footfall now ancient
confined on thresholds
yet to bury the dead
the progeny of sleep
the structure of presence
to what is
internal

– 59 –

The empty-veined
axioms
the manacled faith
without
revelation
the jeweled saints'
bone leavings
the nuclei of ash-cloud fallout
anchored to ocean floods
anti-ontological
nemesis drift

myths in lives
a slow dissension
of candle light
inking prosthetic outlines
passion
vanished through sand
now a windless room
anonymity or identity
objective
as trees perceived
among the weeds

– 60 –

A theory to scars
a bloodless wound
the gutting eyed
primal reptile mind
symmetries to dualities
errant zero polyphony
cycles to redeem
a fog
ensconced land
void of this
void again
the corpse
that which cannot see
a wrought iron rail
a metaphor for words

or the invertebrate
sage
on subway stairwells
eulogizing
the corpse
that which cannot
reanimate
the pallid limb
rooting for verity
the sky empty
of answers
of emblazoned archetypes
of the flawed
patterns in constellations
arrows of the annulled
voice of iron
a crude labyrinth Babel
god of thatch
of weed patch
of worm-furrow talus
of dissension
of Plank's realities
existing apart
from sense perception
distillate image
crystalline by nightfall

– 61 –

Lore of diaspora

of presence
before
there was sentience
identity as reclusive
gloss in mirror-absentia
measure to form
patina in scrap iron shipyards
hemlock root in orchid garden
hybrid life force
animating intoxicated deities
unlike a mortality
where sleep articulates
an atomized periphery
an incoherent scabrous rim
here the prostrated
the granite silhouettes
the faceless
anchorite devotion
the paled glottis utterance
descending herringbone light vessel
unseen voices
pilloried by antiquity
bloated spleen legends
carved in dolmen shallows
the gnomon eclipsing
the standing stones
the blind wastrel effigies
burning chiasmic meteor scars
now the galled eyelid
the remote vision

welled in unconscious refuge
the ethereal memory
as intangible
as verity
or pathos transcended
vesper elegies
scattered to wind

– 62 –

Location finds light
in ascension
dawn to interpret
the rust encrusted bollard
upon a coarse stone path
a cowed bituminous horizon
here some have cultivated
the garden of entropy
some have plied the confines
some have witnessed consciousness
interpreting
a mettle's malleable aspects
here there is no variable
no constant to ponder
no wandering minstrel
consoling the veneered maiden
she does not see
the wintered garden
the sullen gentrified poet

the detachment from the empty page
or an ocean's ebb
aping empathetic voices
now a summer house
in shadow
an unsullied light
entering a corridor of doors
some see ghosts
as consciousness rarefied
yet there is no story
no narrative
to seduce
a flesh hasped
to plastic lobotomies
a flesh imbibing
the bloody rose libation
a flesh intuiting
an ambient embedded perfection
a flesh unable
to subdue the mutable lion
a flesh suturing
the wounded orchid bloom

– 63 –

Windows in a building
facing the ocean
diffuse sunlight filters
through reticular angles

clouds of raven wings
dripping condensate
on rank lawn refuse
here she thought
to count the raindrops
symmetries in isolation
a porous stone's glaciated edge
walking the concrete berm
at season's end
there were the uncultivated
orchid garden weeds
there were the palaces
of Hellenic grandeur
there were monads of pretense
to envision
the wheel of poverty
slowly disengaging
a life lived through
a plurality of tense
a palimpsest redacting
the vaporous fables
the past of poisoned wells
the inaudible hourglass ghosts
ebbing thru the plastic aperture
the sculptured image-essence
unbound to philosophies' articulating
the granite tongue opiates

Limits of lights
blighted
utterance from nothingness
as those who are dead
are nameless
are voices
interred
only the interior eye
speaks
as the muted rose

– 65 –

In waking hours
a lyre's seamless air
though the hallowed cave walls
the sleeping sire dreams
of prisms splintering
of fallow groundswell
of an androgynous redeemer
a dissolving skeletal shell
quavering beneath gaslight spires
a dust reliquary
emptied
of self
of absence
as ancient seas
offering no answer
now in daylight

a sparrow
through an open window
a festering eschatologist wound
divining an omen
as worms
in bone-void isolation
as impish beasts
foraging arid weed tracts
as galleass wind across
the soot-veined city ruins
as ice impacting
the insoluble rodent eye

– 66 –

No one spoke
of landscapes
of corpses
a stain on the pavement
outlined extremities
erasures at ocean edge
or lack of insight
apprehending decay
when sentience ceased
briefly a philosopher existed
to parse hermetic notation
alternate theories flourishing
to determine a variable
a belfry's resonant echo chamber

a dead fox
interred
in an orchid field
a barren hedgerow
thorns of shedding dust
a mountain pass
indistinguishable as sunlight
now a house
without windows
a marbled domed parapet
rocks in a garden
rendered in glass
a language of torsos
of ontological plasticity
of muted fungi progeny
of lanced arachnid larvae
of glass coffin shards
of numinous bardic gods
of blood resonance
haunting the empty fosse

– 67 –

An ebony reticence
a luminous maiden
in pure elemental blindness
an effacing
plasticized sky
a steel vise lament
written without meaning

to transform
the burning city
the segmented arachnid limb
the facile collapsing mass
blemish in momentary rapture
here the blackened zero's spine
the discordant vortex spin
the effigial spheres of glass moons
the unmoored cerulean atom
the cellular blood catacombs
throbbing in celestial exile

– 68 –

What is reached is
a synergistic differential
an entirety assumed
as infinity is
an undermined process
in irregular patterns
a cost transparency redacts
in time
a constant
as abstract
as glass is
pervasive to paradox
then lag in apprehension

sightless wind
in arborvitae forest
sequential thoughts
to the ill-remembered one
enthroned
lying in state
soon the foci of shepherds
traversing the night
the reverie of forest denizens
offering sooty jewels
beneath their dark disk of sun
ones who ponder illusions
approximating fealty once
inside the bell tower
the saturated gray rooftops
the bald abraded mountains
the white beaded perfumed snow
the slow jaunt
to sleep's sanctuary
here the blind hermetic
cliff dweller's dream
here the icy mortal bane
the indeterminate unyielding edge

– 69 –

He dreams
in an enormous factory
a Hopper's *Sunday Morning* peace

unsullied by another's speculation
but no more naked thoughts
to dislodge the dogma
there are iron bars
at eye level
there are trembling joists
from subterranean worms
there are oil pools
in asphalt gardens
holes where a pavement recedes
a rusted gate
a crow's broken wing
but to understand isolation
a torn net in the sea
snagged barnacle-encrusted
sentience
all is of one thought
diluted distilled splintered coruscation
a hand moving
above the cloud cover
an unseen tongue
in voiceless mirrors
a metronome
advancing
a time signature's presence
his belief in the hourglass
of eternity
of theories measured
by palsied limbs
mutated foundations

brine sifted
through ocean sand

– 70 –

As this is being written
there is death
without intimacy
death to whom
shall not be named
if not
a crow above the overcast
then one
that is not seen
one
to remove
identity
one
to remove
an orchid
amid the shattered vase shards
one
to remove
ink of empty pages
one
to remove
depth to voices
a tumult to the sea
the crumbling plaster statuary

idols symbolizing empire
as this is being
being written

– 71 –

In the ruins
are rungless ladders
fleshless stairwells
skeletal galaxies
essence as doorways
accumulating
in a lightless room
the drowned specter
the riverbed alchemists
a view to him
dreaming of infinity
inaudible as echoes
or breath
from a deaf dog's tongue
a depth to vibrations
to where X remains
an unsourced ontology
heaving streams
rusted iron sentience flow
against the ingrained
phallic dogma's incursion
a bedsitter's lament
a Petrarchian sonnet

bittersweet canticle
by nightfall
dust gates uprooted
the terrestrial hemisphere

– 72 –

Perhaps
geometries as origins
amorphous quantum amoeba
non-descript
primordial entrails
dissolving in summer sun
perhaps
a buried orchid root
a redolent void
a space wherein
mind becomes
abstraction's bane
perhaps there are
obliterations
eons
expunged from history
legends of sea kings
drowned by lamplight
perspective of sun
turned to ash
mirrored smoke
on burnt tongues

(by nightfall)
a blind hermit
treading
inside the iron gate
delicacies to hands
holding
the severed threads
thus the pendulum crests

– 73 –

A distance betrays
patterns
hermetic dislocation
or an urn
depicting hollow figures
anemones as cloud forms
degrees of wounds
(or) weightless speculation
depicting death
without words
one cannot see
a viol is not an ocean
or a doorframe
encompassing a conception
or a reality
or a gnat
composed of windows
liquefying a surface

one can see
this thought
to not exist
detached from consequence
detached from conjecturing
times' passing
the hour
the glass shattered
obliterating the singularity

– 74 –

What permits the meadow
to enter
the perceived
or a sky with cranes
resembling a hill
when divined
by darkness
the eye enters
a theory of singularity
the tongued abstractions
the flawed of thought
the wicket gate
the field of orchids
the simulacra
the bounding
a sea
a stone

sodden by fate
a zero
to marginalize
the hollow faces
enervating deity

- 75 -

Her face
is not the mirror
it depicts
or a cloud structure
buried above an anchorite sky
sometimes she speaks
of forms in a wall less corridor
of an anterior room
of vessels descending
at windows
an onyx nightfall
a granite webbed nebula
a portrait rendered
in acidic dust swells
tracing voids
of wasp trajectories
of black pestilential winds
ionizing eyes'
transparent gauze
soon her sundered torso
materializing

a womb
a nameless progenitor
one bent by hallowed winds
across the moors
a nature
a crumbling architecture
a peace without possessing
the spectral iron skeletons
the gluttoned desert torch
the rotted bodily geometries
the clinging weed
sifted through sand
or formless light
beneath frozen ocean rust

- 76 -

Viewed from above
differentiations fade
a singular thread
unraveling the visible tapestry
eyes imaged to duality
platonic forms
in a vase of plastic flowers
the bleeding abstract
ideology or logos
or mind
as continent
or consciousness

as drift
a vessel
an ocean
timelessness
in one aspect
to touch the flame
the crow
the empty field
windows onto walls
to recognize this expanse
the virulent monarch's bones
drowned in asphalt
in mountain
as isolation
to predicate
a solution
assuming orchids
to touch
a reality
visible through broken glass
the stolid Heisenberg eye
not without intention
to unname the universe
the half-life echoing
the cavern wall
soluble void

Lateral daylight
as perspectives fade
there are lost voices
in the atom
an oblique hour
returning
faces to ash
intimate light now
a Faustian wind
empty as sleep
behind the glass eyelid
sawdust blows to pavement
a present tense
weighted dead tongues
haunting the night
the night of corridors
of equations
of parchment
amassing
in age of waste
of what is measured
by zeros
by what is pursuing
the mutated integer
the crows on salt flats
the returning to
the womb
the distant light
the space
the void

populated with thought
here there were appearances
theories illuminated
views from rooftop windows
ramparts to the sea
a sentinel
hasped to mortality

– 78 –

Perhaps there are endings
delineations in sand
a gated marble palace
a parlance with ghosts
an ancient saint's bones
perhaps bloody relics
myths buried
at curbside
a taxi
cutting thru crepuscular smog
like aspects of history
defining alphabets deformed
through the glass aperture
here the subject of flowers given
at the moment of death
realigning clocks
to the mirrored zeros
perhaps this is nothing
voices of nothing

voices as null spaces
dripping from withered tongues
perhaps this is
a deciding measure
to define mortality
as sightless
a blind stampeding minotaur
smashing the glass labyrinth
an elemental ante-light
resonating
wave over wave
through the quantum veil
a previous world
a voice
or
an orchid
dissolving boundaries
perhaps

– 79 –

No limits to light
yet portraits
described as music
removed from abstraction
frames to render
limitation
granite faces
casting no shadow

(as in) a life of paper dolls
eclipsing the moon
it is
in the tenth hour
one must conjecture
sands blowing
from malleable boundaries
the porous wood
upholding the Cartesian citadel
the burnt eyes
in sleep seeing
transcendence as fate

– 80 –

He questions the ocean
forgetting what exists
within the mind
or elsewhere
in a field of dust
an unwritten book
desiring misunderstanding
then thoughts of symmetry
to deny
subjective dualities
or a nomad
splitting the atom
in noiseless hallways
deserts fused to glass

a music of structures
liquefied atrophy
eroding indeterminate edge
now the window
the blind sparrows entering
at nightfall
an omen
a garden
a thousand dead
an infusion of wounds
to determine
an archetype of sanity
a question of imperfection
lingering hours
to approximate
distance to galaxies
distance to years
below the slender azure
contours to obliterate
singularity of faith
eroded indeterminate edge

– 81 –

What cannot be
a succession of kings
beyond the voice
the dead
the lily field
the strata

the unmarked graves
a view
from a hill
a storm subsides
at ocean edge
a broken shell
resonating
a passion spent
as tangible
as identity
in a mirror
an ocean
dead to the touch

– 82 –

Turn from thoughts
a liquid medium
without a language
there is still sun
there is still dust
to interpret
as conclusion
set adrift
as consciousness
without emotional breadth
to foresee
a temporal dawn
a thrown stone

a detracting empiricism
an actuality as vague
memory figures
carved on glass walls
transparencies of a meadow
as now the dark day
descending imperfectly
blurred renderings
tenebrous silhouettes
an eye
not affecting change
glyphs of stones
or fragments
seeing through faces
an iron gate

– 83 –

A view from a window
the gauzed eye
seeing death
an existence
nullified here
to speak abstractly
to rooted physicality
to pendulous stabilities
to the great cities
the black veined golem
the foraging feral cats

the granite caryatids
mind without structures
aligned to Orion's ascent
to enter this garden
to frame a reality
to resist
the nasturtiums burgeoning
filaments of scarce moon void
against a weedy lamenting sky
the alabaster statuary
the bleeding vermilion rainfall
the grayed limbed penitent
floating millstone contrition
to sire the unnamable specter
plastic talons gripping
the foggy asphalt fray

– 84 –

Perhaps
there is structure
to this resisting
assimilation
a dissolving world
defined by thought
as there is not
a continuation
or a process
envisioned
to cauterize the wound

to deny pain existing
to reanimate
the swollen rodent corpse
the philosopher's knotted realm
the wolf which must remain
a mutable paradigm
an archetype to possess
a quintessence to abrade
the surface of change
the inarticulate speech
the wounds within
the rotted ceiling joist
the gnat consciousness
of what is
barely perceptible
as what is familiar
is
transparent
to seeing
the inverted eye
the flaccid arachnid web
the continents' drift
across a glass bridge
a threshold to essence
a night sky
a milky bilge water
a drowned orchid root
here there is structure
to deny
death exists

perhaps (X . . .

– 85 –

To invoke the gaunt spirit
at nightfall
the shutter bangs
a facile memory
a tapestry of voices
to resolve
a null set
only in this scale
to comprehend
a handful of dust
a cavity of yellow light
in the veins
a hidden clock
as imperfect as speech
mitered through time
fading to candle wick
the calloused eye angst
resolved to thicket
yet to image a garden
scarlet cellular escarpment
elasticity's crystalline light
as immaterial
as essence denied
a passion
weighted by ire

once the subjective
once the indeterminate
hole in the granite façade
to define architecture
or clarity here
within the glass sparrow's eye
ten thousand years of rain
leaking oceans through doorways
a tender at the quay
an aspect of trees
perforating the lifting clouds
a dove to image
the rusting thread
the incarnate decay
the hollow bone sentience
within this onyx gate
the iron eyelid has closed

Ric Carfagna

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