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Robert Kelly Bard College

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Any day begins me over grey white for instance sky with visible rays of sun lancing southeast, the seeming is brittle to renew—learn from my children the dark taste of no. Or broiled bass last night in oil and lemon (thanks, Jeff) an opera? Meaty as a new thought fresh from the sea.

### **SENTENTIAE**

I have given myself to the propositional lately,

light comes from loose, ease up, her face will come

I'm so close to know what I sought saw those all of her the wonder the tongue always says it.

2.
But the sentence
that never failed me
failed me—
it was chaos instead
that needed me,
Garance lost in the crowd,
never fall in love.

3. Shape is like that. It begins and the next anybody knows

your breath obeys
a guessed-at form
a shapely ripple
in dream-space
shivering the actual
air you breathe
and there it is, the song.
Shape in like this.

4.
Every flag impersonates
a human face.
Every face
impersonates a word
that no one ever yet has said.

5.
Stars are your eyes clouds are your arms crossed to restrain the animal you are.

6.
Colors are your mind blinking in the sun.
You have belonged to everything but it fought its way free.

7.
Solemn armchairs
sleeping dogs.
One by one
they pass away.
Forgot to watch the sea,
no room for me.

8.
Filled cabs
turn off roof lights
trusting others
with your pleasures
scary. Walk
all the way yourself,
swing your arms,
you'll get there
faster than subways,
bluer than beer.
You're almost there,
ypu can hear the sil
slither off her skin.

9.
Most nights I die in the ambulance dead on arrival and start again.
DNA, wicked board game of our lives.
There was something wrong with my mind again something happened to me on the stairs

ascension to another plane, my mind started breathing.

Am I there yet?
You passed it long ago
a dog was barking, the sun was setting
you couldn't tell anything apart
she laughed at you from the open door
but you wouldn't listen.

## **10**.

Music is mostly humiliation.
People and their instruments
doing things in you from afar.
Action at a distance. Poetry
at least gives you a chance to shut the book.
But the lute still strums in foreign gardens
is one way to read it, you hear it
even when it stops. Alas,
the ears have no eyes to close.

11.
Hence the other side the in the blue thing I can't stop thinking is that some flower—

but you wouldn't call this thinking—
you've been here too long for that.
Easy music you sing, a stupid
first generation app, a statue
on its way from bronze, something
never got here, sword in her hand
by war-light must be reading history,
the shriveled balls of old Thucydides.
Why don't we have a better word for it?
Called amaranth flower you will not die.

Shakespeare rimes error with mirror and what have I ever added since with all my palaver about breath and illusion? Covered his song, that's all, made it longer, so long, hummed it on the subway fled the city, hummed it in the trees. Breath on the mirror, words on the page. Sun rising in fog.

#### THEORY OF CHRONIC DISEASES

Linger, latent latent leper, Hahnemann's psora phylum issues as the spirochete (Lyme, syphilis) lingers in the individual so also the disease itself lingers in the whole population. Creative, always taking new forms. Genetics makes no exceptions, maybe that's what incarnation means, follow your latencies from life to life?

Capture ratio
let me dark the page
of this bright world.
only love me
for what I say
your ears
are biological,
magical, cosmological, I light
a candle for you
at high noon
and by listening
you make me true.

18.VI.14, Cuttyhunk

I am your cloud shielding you from the brightness of sunyata, drone out that silence with the chatter. ceaseless identity.

= = = = =

Vascular volunteers follow the blue lines into battle. The ventricle speaks Russian maybe pumping the juice of origin through the continental drift between the limbs a golden glow of not quite fire but. Obscene kiss from which the beginning began.

There are no dialects, it's all a lie.
The only actual language is I.

18.VI.14, Cuttyhunk

# **POSTCARD**

In the costal region slacking under silk towards the swell of more recalls scarce intime small room big chair long year the lovely congress of particulars fine hairs on forearm smile hides in clothes.

Slavic speaking city in no country we know we pass a tourist hotel but choose a better class ask for two rooms but they have only one — so I sleep on the floor and you sleep on the ceiling. Between us floats the bed repellently neat. Tell me, is this any way to sleep?

= = = = =

Could I otherwise have or taste these under white leaves prickly raspberries can't have in cities where are you rus means country in Latin we have tobe in a place with plenty of dirt and things that grow only in dirt and beasts that eat those things. Otherwise tarpaper sky and the smell of sorrow in people's eyes. We need to be where there are no pedestrians but only travelers. Think of a fetching word for being gone.

#### **BLETCHLEY PARK**

1.

Course from predictable knowledge asserting champagne rayon blur on the ceiling there's that word again one more horizon darling. I'm only a cave in a pluvial a pyramid inside out acute depression *Uatchet* of Egypt, goddess thing, Justice slither through the reeds without papyrus no law she made the paper we word so dark so much. Now you are the place Egypt used to be.

Isn't the world too old for you and I games?
Doesn't assertion need granite cathedral or brick bungalow at least. something hard and empty anybody can go in can sleep and really wake?

3.
Still thinking your way whatever that is, things with numbers in their wombs, numbers with eyes
I just need to get all this written down before I wake up into the numberless day.

In airless quiet morning tomb under the dome never built— what do we know about the counting numbers and the souls they chose to count birds flapping over a river thoughts in a drowsy mind?

5.
Any minute now the trees will move.
And you moist-thighed among machines and while all the other women
(only women count) are busy decoding

Nazi messages you're quietly deciphering communiques from other galaxies and there you hear us taling, yes, you and me again—with this language I serve you forever.

So clearly you hear me but still can't hear at all what you answer.

To rule a world by thought alone there is no other way.

Start thinking now you have not so many years to do it

but an infinity of instants and the spaces between them where nothing is

but what yoi're thining.

Two days to summer everything has to be told before the sun stands still.

19.VI.14, Cuttyhunk