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Can I be here with the earthmen,
can the whisker of a cat
row my Ra boat through space
where I belong to everything I hear,

I hear the Moon! I hear the equinox
grinning through the bars of time,
a dog, a dog is a miracle!

But what about a sparrow
eating a piece of bread I was eating from
a minute back, what
is on the other side of that?

30 May 2007
Rhinebeck

= = = = =

I need to tell you every little thing,
the most destructive force in the world
is intelligence without culture.

Not everything you see is there to be seen,
there is more to this listening than meets the ear,

the face of darkness has a profile too,
cute nose, determined chin,
when we kissed we held
the whole world in our mouths
long enough to swallow – now where is it?

Our whole world is gone.
We stand before the judgment seat of God
and only the sparrow has anything to speak.

30 May 2007
Rhinebeck

= = = = =

Can tell from the way she walks
all she cares about is money.
Her children are itemized deductions.
Her husband is a cow.

30 V 07, Rhinebeck

INVISIBLE MILL

where the Metambesen
spun the wheel,
the weaving.

That was power,
an animal, even a sheep.
is power. It is a being
alive in its own skin
full to the last micron
with itself.

Can you say that,
staring sadly down
at the wheel-less cataract
of the Sawkill, always,
always feeling something is
missing, can you?

All night you hear
the hurry of it, water,
you think it's just water.

30 May 2007
Rhinebeck

SUNSET

The ghosts are driving around tonight.
I saw Dick Higgins driving up Station Hill Road—
one of his greatest performance pieces ever,
a posthumous presence,
wordless, utterly convincing.

 Here I am
 a lustrum
 into death,
 I still drive cars,
I still have a face that men can see and read
at sunset, the air full of birds.

30 May 2007
KTC

JEUX D'ENFANTS

Open some door
say some word

B

Water the flower
earth the air

B

Fire wins all arguments
try not to listen,
try not to disagree

B

Peacefully arrive

B

Hide the closet in you
Hide the sky in the house

B

Do something else

B

Do something same
by thinking about it again

B

Play cards with the moon.

31 May 2007

GEOMETRY LESSON

Try to get it right at last.
Pick the line up
and spread it out
gently sideways till its wide
then walk on it.
There, that's the way.

31 May 2007

IVORY

It is our Ivory Anniversary
but I have no ivory to give you
I have no elephant to take it from.
And wouldn't it I could, having had
my share of tusk torture
in my own big mouth. White,
smooth, expensive is not everything,
we're not pianos.

But still I tried to find a surrogate.
Camel bone is often faked as ivory
but we're not going anywhere,
no caravan of salt. Then a website tried
to sell me mammoth ivory
from tusks of dug-up Siberian beasts.
It would be like giving a lover death
itself, or a hollow bone full of ghosts,
a thing with ten thousand years on it
dug out of inconceivable catastrophe.

No ivory for you. But everything else
is, and is for you because
you know the way of things.
If there were ivory you would make it play,
you would use it better than an elephant I bet.
It would rest around your neck, white key sonata,
the light playing on it soft the way it does,
ivory necklace maybe, or a single bead.

But that's moot. No ivory. But I mean
an ivory thought at you, like a fountain pen
that writes on the air words
people could breathe in. That you could breathe.
Or like a gull wing soaring low
at daybreak, paradox of white
when there is nothing there but us.