

4-2006

aprA2006

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Recommended Citation

Kelly, Robert, "aprA2006" (2006). *Robert Kelly Manuscripts*. 735.
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MAGYAR

Ember means 'man.'

Amber means a leaf
that forgot everything
but fire

1 April 2006

MUSIC

Strange to think: we do to music
while it does to us.

It keeps telling us

(Biber, sonata III in F, from the 1681 collection):

follow me carefully, carefully, set
your footstep in my step, this string
I leave you leads you, binds you, follow
and you will find, follow out
beyond the wall, beyond your will,
past the street, past the straight take
my string and light upon it
each tone we untune to see
the face of someone we obsess upon
as place obsesses us or *theme*
supposed divine, so that music
says Be free! while we beg it to Be me.

1 April 2006

CODE NAPOLEÓN

Standing. Watching it

happen. Standing watching.

There is a law in France about it as about so many things.

You can't just stand there and watch it happen. No.

You can't just stand. You become a happener

if you stand still. If you stand watching it

happen you happen it. So

standing watching it it happened to you.

Suddenly you are what you are watching.

You are a crime. What happens.

There is a law older than France

that tells you this is so. You don't hear anything

when you stand there.

You watched it happening so it will never be done

with you. The tired old law

nobody knows how to break, tired old world

where a circle will never have a corner

and everything you ever see happens to you.

1 April 2006

BUT OUT THE WINDOW IS DIFFERENT FROM CLOSURE

It is just night. Darksome but full of beings being
the way unseen things are always up to something
while you're goofing off your father said. Oh I don't mean you,
the observation is plus-que-particular as they say,
I don't know who. I don't know you. I was not even aware
this is a conversation. I thought I was all by myself
alone in room looking out onto an empty road
four in the morning and yet you're speaking.

1 April 2006

WHERE THE NAME IS WAITING

... a name that is a thorn

—Ian Dreiblatt

Window. Bird

wants in. Where. Superb.

Where old river and

in forest shadows a pig in sun.

Upriver where. Where a line

led from a war to here.

Where a line ends.

Follow anywhere comes here.

A line is follow. Where.

This doesn't work but it does

go there.

,

of course it hurts to hear

or bear even more

dear friend we can be so vernacular

the rain drips off your clothes

you've gone to pick someone up at the airport

someone is made of air.

But when I am pierced by who you are
then the dark think matters,
pinprick, a girl lost in Maine)

but hearing your name I'm not ready
all heaven and earth bow at the name

a name is a man for a wolf
a spot of sunlight dancing on the wall
that drives your cat crazy,

catch it, a name, I didn't catch your name
but I want to catch you like a disease

o blessed plague that has such symptoms in it

imagine one without a name
would who be able to touch that?

2 April 2006

=====

When music begins
something else is ending.

It isn't history
that answers this
or psychology even.
Something nearer
to the heart, the deep
thing that listens.

That listens best
when there is nothing to hear.

2 April 2006

ARVO PÄRT, " MIRROR IN A MIRROR"

This piano going up and down the steps
like the Pope at midnight
padding in slippers to the bathroom
along a pale corridor
with no end and no beginning.

2 April 2006

WORLD

Alloy of energy.

Miscible with
someone, who?

A man walks

home from temple

anxious for the *Times*,

the restitution

of the ordinary.

The secular saves.

2 April 2006

WAR

To see the horrid faces of one's enemies
coming clear through fog or smoke and for
one moment see them just as faces
skulls carrying their terrors towards you
because they have no room to keep them home.
All soldiers are fugitives to begin with.

3 April 2006

JOHN THE SMELTER

But I don't know what he was seeing in the sound
when he named the music and I see a different thing
or the same thing but I think it' different
so what's the difference? And what really is a tower,
streets full of frightened people singing psalms,
a Turkish army marching across the plain?

3 April 2006

ON THE PHOTO OF A HUMAN WOMAN

Preserve this envelope.

It has on it

God's return address.

3 April 2006

REVERENCE

If we could only learn to offer
reverence to one another
and accept it when it's offered,
the problems of society would cease.
You do not cheat or enslave
those you revere. Learn
reverence. If I could bow down
before them all!
Not as a servant
but as the high priest of their divinity!

3 April 2006

=====

Not even chance
could do this to me.

3 III 06

ALTAR

A woman's back given

A woman's back. She bends forward at the waist
Until her back is flat. She parallels the earth
Up from which she stands.

A woman's back

Is an animal,

An animal going *the other way*.

What is the other way? The tail of the animal
is the woman's reptile brain, medulla, cerebellum, hind brain, old one,
the tail of the lizard is the head of the woman.

This is an animal going the other way.

The eye is in the fundament, which the French call *l'oeil bronze*
the brazen eye that gleams its light,
that tells the body where it's coming from, *hence*
where it must go.

The eye is in the bottom, the base of the spine.

So the spine is the whole animal, its tail in the skull and its head the pelvis
hurrying into the world.

The woman moves one way, her head to the door
but her back moves the other way, walking back,
seeing her way back into the room.

So a woman and her back are going
both ways at once.
And whatever goes the other way
leads to the god. God is always the other way
away.

2.

The back. The back is the altar.
She talked about the back then she gave me her back.
She said: this is the altar. Say your mass on me.
In the Bible when God says: When you cross over Jordan
build me an altar, build it from uncut, unmasoned stone
he means build it of this. The back of the woman
is the altar, the animal, the stone crocodile
standing forever forever motionless in the jungle of everything that moves.

3. (Wolves and whales)

What is a wolf?

A woman on all fours.

When it is said that Romulus and Remus were suckled by a wolf
they mean a woman on all fours, her breasts hang down
her back is flat, the children sit up and nurse from the
breasts, one for each,

Romulus means little Rome or little Remus, Remus means the Roman one,

so Remus came first, the little brother kills him, Abel and Cain,
but the two breasts are always full, the altar is always
waiting,
a wolf, a wolf is forgiveness.

What is a whale?

A woman with a hole in her head.

. . . . 4 April 2006

[see finished version, 16 April 2006]

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As I spoke the German words
 it fell through me,
my German was gone

Nothing more powerful
 than the last words a man speaks
in a language he once knew.

(waking from dream, 5 IV 06)

=====

It is raining here in Paraguay
I never thought it, the dusty road
turns muddy slick, the sun
is still out and makes it glisten

ugliness is beautiful

Too many things. I must be sleeping.
When the doorbell rings
it will be the policeman
telling me about his daughter
lost behind the moon a year ago
but now come home. He smiles.

Everything smiles. It is the laughter
built into things. Wood
has it, and the scanty leaves
still on the matchwood trees
alongside the river, the ravine,
the road. There is no river.

5 April 2006 (waking)

=====

But what is silence for
if not for that.

And there the message stopped
as if the transmission was complete.
The old wind-up radio in the garage,
the goose walking past the shattered door.

We all are soldiers in this war.

5 April 2006