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= = = = =

Something summing—
rocks of Anatolia up and carved
likeness of beasts on the likeness of men

my breath caught in my chest
 once I was over
 and believed myself to be
free of a slave ethic but was I?

Was anyone free as long as a stone
could be carved in the likeness of the beast?

Yet a bird is there in the yew tree
a time then flies away.
The carved image
does not fly away from the stone —

 I was a Catholic
 raised to suppose
every day is a holy day
 some saint or other,

taught me
to value most
what happens every day —

the common Grail,
the ordinary as it is.

And later the wise explained
the Ordinary Mind
is all we have,
really, but hard-to-find
it is so easy,
it is so everywhere.

2.

But what about this rock on a hill in Turkey
and only there,
what should we make of
something that isn't everywhere?

30 December 2013.

= = = = =

Shape this day
as play is shaped

wet your fingers
with the rain

and shape the long
sleek body of time.

30 December 2013

= = = = =

1.

The kleshas
are fingers
on whose hand?

2.

The words I can't hear
in the mouth sounds
mean me.

3.

And every word
the mother tongue.

*(29 December 2013
at the Axial Concert)*

31 December 2013

= = = = =

The brilliant voice
trapped inside the diamond
let out by looking

you hear by seeing.

31 December 2013

= = = = =

Could we slow
our eyes to see
light actually
coming down to us?

31 December 2013

= = = = =

A leaf unfurls
in time's fingers
until there is more
of you only you.

31 December 2013

= = = = =

What one felt
in the old days
when feeling was

or what one saw
in the carnival
any street was

satin to fingertips
smell sweat
smell food frying

there is a name there
somewhere hidden
like breasts in a blouse

I will never remember.

31 December 2013

= = = = =

The Czech radio this
morning is telling me
too much about my childhood

tuba I played in high school
I feel it on my tongue
the pressure on my lips
as some tubista plays
Carnival in Venice
and now the Overture
1812 I listened to over
and over again as
if it had all of
history in it, silly
eight year old, as
if it really had me.

31 December 2014

= = = = =

But music does
unlock the self
and let it go
a while away
while all there is
is listening.

31 December 2013