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THE PEN

**was a feather once
on a bird once, crow
for the finest lines,
goose for every day.
You think you have to
know the word you mean
before you set the pen to
paper, parchment, vellum.
No. The pen knows
for you, the word, all
the words wait for you
in the pen. That's what
a pen is, a slim reminder
of the mind before yours
from which you speak.
All you need to be is ink.**

...19 December 2013

=====

**Wear what you'd wear
on an ordinary day
something with blue eyes with brown eyes,
something with words all over it
in languages you don't even recognize.
And why should you, the road
beneath your feet is full of conversation,
enough for you to go on with,
wise perceptive feet.
Your shadow points its own way,
though. always striving to escape.
And why not? *Who am I
to own a shadow?*
That's what you should think,
let my people go, let
children play in the moonlight.
And for God's sake where something else.**

19 December 2013

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**When an arm curves
around you there is
remembering to be done.**

**When mail comes
you skim it fast before
settling to read it.**

This is fear.

**Who knows what words will come
what they'll do when they get here?
To you, target of language
from the beginning. Every word
a command or rebuke,
every caress an impossible demand.
And you can't stop reading.**

19 December 2013

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**Be good to the good
be good to the bad
that way they'll never know.**

20.XII.13

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**If you start deciding
the music will stop
but you'll g on hearing
that quiet place
where music was.**

**That is the land of ghosts.
Your personal dead live there
trying to hide from your remembering.**

**Leave them alone, let them be.
Stop deciding. Then music starts
again, at the point where she
comes in with a glass of water
from her well and gives it to you.**

20 December 2013

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**That's the same sky
I saw it over Kanchenjunga
and here it is today,
same color, no older.
How young you are,
how everywhere. I try
sometimes to find
a different one but
here you are. Here you are.**

20 December 2013

OF ABSENCE

**The man who walked his dog
now walks his no-dog the same way
same care to cross the slushy road.**

**Hiems. He is winter,
vigorous and old, all year round,
meek smiling winter
sunlight on dried apples winter.**

**Men who have dogs
have no seasons in their year,
just dog. And even the man
who walks no dog, if it; a his own**

no-dog he walks, is winter.

**Or whenever an animal is
something a man needs to
be with to be. A dog's**

everlasting awkwardness

leaves us in control it seems.

Hiems. I love this season,

the difficult, the snow,

the gorgeous obliteration of the actual.

21 December 2013

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**Is there a macro
for meaning this?
A smile at the barista
who smiles back.
A table in the window
cinnamon in the air
but where is my black
cup waiting to cool
and the street goes by?**

21 December 2013

=====

**But think the novel meant to read
a dream falls out of your hands
and who has it? Who has your dream?
The man next door, the nun
around the corner, cat on your lap?
A dream is fluid but particular, clings
like oil and makes objects it touches
glisten in the sun or night in cities
where only the signs and ads are natural
and all the rest not half as hot as dream.**

21 December 2013

ORATORIO: *LUTHER IN WORMS*

(Ludwig Meinardus)

**There was snow and then hasn't
as the torrent outside renewed
by twisted heats of living system
complex variables what to do?
We need a Reformation again
to change this old church of world.
Breathe, bite, caress and be enough.
Stand up before the bishops and deny,
just deny. Leave it to them to decide
what if anything has been rejected.
Change it all, the way it is right now
in Brazil or in green New Zealand
where there are more sheep than people
and more poets and artists than sheep.
Everything speaks. Every single thing
leaves its testament behind, permanent
shadow of what it is. What we are.**

22 December 2013

=====

I still want to say something—

day 5-Kan, *serpent*

asleep a month now

maybe stirring this warm day

but rest, rest in the long

sentence of the earth

you speak so well

when summer comes

and now stay quiet

to absorb all

that delicate information

that never wears out.

22 December 2013

Day 6-Kame

=====

**Late to this tattered page
dark already walking from the stream
up the steep bank to the road.
Where have I been
so quick tgo lose the light
All these empty worries.
Memories. Night comes and goes.**

22 December 2013

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**Just this one day I'm not
angry at the world, I love
Obama, wish the Pope good luck
and pray for peace
to all the little gods who really rule the world.**

22 December 2013

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**As if the other
were really other
and there was already
someone in this room.**

22 December 2013

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**As if the wind knew
who it is touching
or my poor skin
knew the wind's name.**

22 December 2013

READING THE TIMES

**Where are all the women
in the art world?**

**I'm tired of all the men,
those performing apes
who incidentally own the media.**

**And we only hear about
Marina because she takes off her clothes
or Louise because she got to be very old.**

23 December 2013

PRIMARY EDUCATION

1.

**Takes a long
time to be anywhere.**

2.

**With a fine blade
pry the sunlight off a leaf
then hold the leaf-shaped light
soft in your lips.
In this way learn to speak.**

3.

**The shadow of what you're thinking
you'll find worded on a piece of paper
when you wake up next morning
wondering where you've been.**

4.

**I don't have to spell out everything
it is as lucid as needs be,
a basin full of your hands**

**waiting for the water—
you hear it tumbling
down the falls across the road.
Why is water always somewhere else?**

5.

**People slip out of your life
when they're supposed to.
Citizens of Fairyland
they come and go,
at times charmed by these dirty streets
full of glamorous impostors like ourselves.**

6.

**A light comes on
when a message comes.
You don't have to
read or answer it.
Words from the very
beginning are made of waiting.**

7.

**You see what you see
from far away.**

**When you come close
though, someone else
is looking at you
as if there's nothing there.**

23 December 2013