

Coming to Grip

Realty
Not simply representing the world
But the light of
Astonishing humanity
Defining ones' experience.
Strange private understandings
Questions of engagement
Startling philosophic views
Enthralling pleasure
Absorbing deliberate beauty—
The waterboarding of pain
The cost of giving.

And where the sure step
To live a plausible life
[Sorry about the laboratory dogs.]
To enter other worlds
To be known as 'smart.'
The past? let's not get too romantic,
Those 'good old' days
Prosaic threads, 'starting points'
For an advancing society;
The 'Western world' of swift sewers
Fearless engagement
The safety of in-surance
Complimented by selected risk
Fascinated by blood sports
With hesitation spelled in climate change's
Bigger picture
Ignored during the horse race.

We're lucky to have Wall Street's 'banksters'
To shoulder unindicted blamlessness
[With ethnic others held in escrow,]
While only freaks participate
In lurid cyber-sexuality
[My laptop's operating system]
Geography diminished by wireless technology
The gaps separating apparent touchings
Induced with discrete thumb movements
Never minding the oceans once between.

2.

Hello, Mother Nature . . .
And how does my virtual finding *feel* ?
Thank God for mental illnesses
Those doomed
By drugs scarcely tested
By sheer weights of profits made
By understanding anxiety and despair
And the politics of smart chemistries
Designed obsolescence, the not harmful
Consequences of a bottom line
Sweeping vision shaped by plain-as-dirt
Recognition that 'educated' now requires
Commencement's business degrees.

—EAGLE AIR
Brookline