

Triptych on Beauty

I

Beauty
like air
like oxygen abides
abounds, infuses all
melts anger, malice
charges all colours
stamens and pistils
Beauty rides the warm
and fragrant summer breezes
quasars and quanta, solar
promontories. Beauty
walks upon the waters
rampant ubiquitous
beams off of your face
irises rising on eye-lids horizons
wet tongue on smile lips you and
you and you are
also She O so
 beauty full
woman lady girl the myriad
militias of the Mother victorious
She of the many names
o'erwhelm me onslaught me occupy
me beyond all resistance
so we, defying gravity
lift off above
ground, need, the grasping
hungry names biographies
the this date this
project plan previous commitment
and grow as wings borealis
you and I on one
body untied united
spreading beyond wide
 fly
into Beauty.

II

Deliver me from Beauty's endless snare
the sirens' song the ruse
let reason's piercing stare
illuminate the face behind
the mask behind the make-up, choose
to walk on further find
the leper's loving touch
the geometric clarity of fear
embroidered on a tiger's quiet skin
the graceful passage of a shark's
elusive fin the smile upon the skull
the hidden signs the marks
that point to Milarepa's icy lair
where deep inside the darkness I
may light this hollow wax within
to burn to learn
to see without an eye
the difference between
the fantasy and you
the dharma and the lie
the colleague and the foe
and like the saint's unwickéd and
unkindled candle glow.

III

The frost artificer that glazed
all fragile weeping
trees as well as glass
destroys transformers also
desecrates the monuments
effaces their faces and
reminds us

we too shall pass
whether
beneath the rubble of Beirut
or bone sclerosis or
simply of the shame of
a worsening reputation; worse
still: the imminent oblivion

He

shall

turn to crystallized pane He'll
break my scepter pride
and turn this graying vale
—His winter bride—
into a pearlèd silvered wilderness

of Beauty.