

mirrored

Everything I see reflects,
and refracts, what echoes
can only seek to say:
a partial phrase unparsed,
a face in studied pose.
So, I turn, and return
again, to words I've said,
or heard, with hope such
seed will grow and flower
more than my vain need;
yet, know the crows, who caw
from fence and field, watch
with darker eyes the shadow
twine and twirl about us all.

(December 17, 2014)

regret's fear

"into this image of himself he dives"

--Charles Baudelaire

it was safer to create you
alone hidden in shadows
where only I could find you
when I was tired and tense
and full of fear's insecurities

safer than your living flesh
smooth beneath my slow hand
slipping like silk across your skin
fear of fulfillment far exceeded
any regret of might have been

yet I fear now I have lost you
and regret all that went unsaid

(March 16, 2015)

Cheshire Cat

he shows himself
in half-statements
metaphors to distract
his intent as he
skims the periphery

like a cat curled
on the couch
he silently watches
her as she moves
through the room

conversations end
or begin in middles
non-sequiturs bend
a moebius space
as he speaks with her

when she questions
he hides
his heart
in obfuscation
and whispers

oh Alice
what do you think

you see
when you
speak to me

(November 1, 2011)

a cache of complications

She tastes each phrase,
rolls slow syllables
around her tongue
like an adulterous kiss.

Caressing the conversation,
the back and forth play,
for an intimacy beyond
the day's drab discourse,

she knows, hidden within
these folds, lies a nub
of meaning to be mouthed
like twined secrets in the dark:

"Speak with me," she whispers,
"come to me through your words."

(February 2013)

Explaining Nothing's Owed of Interest Down a Rabbit Hole

Stein named Ezra the village
explainer an ironically compulsive
need to compulsively explain the need
to explain compulsively yet the question
belongs to the questioner who expects
an explanation as owed though the question
gave nothing to be owed owning only
the question and the added attention demanded
of the question to explain through an answer
embedded in the question redirected through
misdirection and repetition until the expected
explanation is provided without interest
in a personal explanation of the question to need
to explain how not to explain compulsively
one asks the questions as a deflection from
the original guilt and shame implied obsessively
by having to explain at least a little why the
question questions the need obsessively answered
in the explanation provided for free without owing
any implied interest in the answer or question
beyond the power to hide the power in the question
by forcing the inarticulate villagers to explain

(June 21, 2014)