

the Talking Animal Party

2, 4, 6 and many legged  
(any re-configuration of same)  
bespectacled, slovenly  
putrid and precious

they gather silently  
sniffing and picking  
with practiced aplomb  
stray food or feces for the tasting  
cornering and posturing  
until the seating is satisfactory.

The opening growl sets teeth flaring  
a lone wag midst prides of bristle  
twitching ears  
and no one looks another in the eye  
never in this assembly, where  
vulnerable jugular stays on the menu;  
there are no vegans.

With no resolution on prior meeting notes  
the financials shredded for mating rituals  
wild stinging disrupted committee reports;  
those still alive settled on new business.  
The miscued *coo* segregated ranks still further  
a beak break was called.

Upon return (first some quick munching and tidying)  
the diminished consensus relented  
voting to *Leave It!*  
for the next generation.

## Rain

so many drops  
working together  
seamless and so busy  
without knowing wet  
or whet

Very Important  
everyone needs them  
for everything always  
just not too much  
at once

they give meaning to wipers  
support to fish and boats  
sparkle to roads and leaves  
faith to freeze drieds

they sing  
and kiss  
quench  
and clean

in truth  
a force of nature  
even while falling  
and full of moisture

## Bashert\*

of eggs and sperm  
boy or girl  
here or there  
you became you

of all the options  
blonde or not  
blue eyed or other  
curly or sparse  
fancy or plain  
round or muscular  
tall or less so  
you are just right

of all the decisions  
on or off  
together or alone  
hot or cold  
right or left  
yes or no  
with or without  
we found us

of all the miracles  
we are them  
you and me  
all because

you got born today  
and I found you

\*Yiddish concept : meant to be, destiny, chosen

mist

I am silent unless you hush and  
risk a muddy ear

my start is the stop of leaves or leaving  
seldom seen

Ah me, I roar past mountains cresting and splashing

slowing to help a forest friend  
become a wildflower

steady over the ages  
seasons blending and bending  
I, rivulet  
or heart