

## like a tree

-1-

like a tree  
my years have been uneven  
moisture related, indeed,  
by the tears shed or stifled  
by the winds and tides  
moon phases, sunspots  
seldom a drought  
drowning more often  
as in overwhelmed  
and shallow rooted

-2-

without thoughts  
I fee ageless  
unwisened by experience  
yet open to adventure  
chewing my vegan cud  
as anxiety's whistle  
demands my attention  
I lose 2 years

(same old story  
of desertion and fear  
the deloved self, handle grabbed  
gains circling cunningly  
already tasting bad)

-1b-

thin barked  
leafless  
all seeds released  
no haven for bird or squirrel  
alone in my forest  
there is no sound when I fall

## **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.

*love (valentine)*

*like chocolate, my heart  
it melts  
sometimes nutty  
or too dark*

*yet this fist of muscle  
full of life and ache  
is yours*

*thisday  
thisnight  
all tomorrows  
promise  
cross my chocolate  
heart*

## herself

alpha power strong and clear  
with speed to spare and surety  
able to leap tall buildings, stun the sun  
end the candles' smokeless purity  
never spill a drop  
balance dancer-ease  
thrifty clean, irreverent  
satisfaction guaranteed

cheap date party pal  
out on a limb ber, too  
true blue move right in  
honesty confused  
no lines or rules rout  
sunny glad and eager [broke the mold]  
too cute too smart  
his daring darling creature

a.  
giver of names to each  
but own  
no chip; hard blocks  
pegs and holes awry  
wedged splinterswords for none to fully vanquish  
even true love's lashing through her thorns  
the perfect kiss, excuse curse and omen

sleeping princess  
dreams of fragrant freedom  
leaking in the corner

## **Nigh night....**

Life is like  
that  
one letter altered  
alerting not  
none is changed  
charged with meaning  
leaning in ways  
to sway  
so close to being closeted  
slow to understand  
standing under the weight  
of waiting  
confessing confusion  
the mirror miraculously  
shows him young  
ageless and agile  
yet he is not.  
As life  
is like that  
moving clockwise  
wisely