

THE QUESTION

How to explain love
or a hand even

to touch gently
a lover's cheek,

fingers, a slight
quiver

two sighs
and no speech

ME, ME, ME

I've got ego
larger than yours

and strut around the room boasting
about how much I love you

and how great my capacity
for suffering the indignities of loving you.

My muscles bulge
bigger than yours

and my voice booms out
how strong I need to be

to put up with your
idiosyncrasies.

I strut and boast and bulge and boom
then look around the room to see

just how much I have
impressed you

but you left me
a long, long time ago

and I remember now
that I am all alone.

THE IF DIFFERENCE

if we had wanted to go
south for the winter,
if vermont in the spring

if we had had cash in
our pockets

if beer in our bellies

if we had changed
our names, our faces

if we had stepped outside
of ourselves, our places

if we had gone away,
had done these

if different

if you / if me

THE FLOWER KEEPER

I kept the flowers
you brought into my room
and placed in the vase on my dresser
more than a year ago
now

without you, the flowers
wilted and lifeless
now

the room so quiet
without the sounds
of our love making
laughter

now,
without you here,
I have only the delicate flowers
whose petals fall at the slightest
touch

now,
I have just the memory
of love.

THE MOMENT

Like the time when we
you and I together
needed to meet
needed to touch
ended.