

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

David Kaczynski: Four Poems

David Kaczynski · Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

Ode to Linda

I don't see people
I see stars
constellations
approximating ideas
or words that, transcending,
escape

A bird sings
flutters
above, behind
purified sound
I don't turn, no

I only turn for you
goddess of memory
and presence
around the place
where a comet
struck my heart.

*

Altar of the Dead

Death cuts off understanding.
— Yasunari Kawabata

I'm taught to let go
but it happens regardless.
So this clinging is
but remembering
 missing
 honoring

cherished ones we
 might've held tighter
 closer to our hearts
 never dropped
 or left broken.

May I not forget the names
 of my dead.

 At times I wonder:
 Are they really dead?
 Or did they leave me
 in other ways?

Dissolving bonds, erasing
 those gracefully etched times,
 turning memory into stone –
 buried strata that await some
 future, life-changing upheaval.

Sipping tea, I scan the
 smog-blurred horizon.
 The fault, I suspect, lies
 in our hearts so choked
 with need and custom that
 clarity is only imagined.

Resting here in absence
 I strain to remember
 if not to re-create
 what almost was.

*

My Map

The map rolled up in my hand
 made me an architect of empty spaces,
 displacing intimacy with self-importance.
 These days I carry it folded in my pack.

Probably I need this perfect square
 of mind, its grimy page flattened
 against the ground as I pore over
 whorled fates like a palmist,
 absurdly following myself.

But at night my map unfolds
 like a live creature uncurling
 in the dark and wafts me up
 through uncompassed space

shot through with moonlight.

*

The Red Stone

I sat myself on the red stone
so often, so long till now
in one spellbound moment
I feel myself becoming the stone
embraced by it, devoured, assimilated.

I should have known the stone
was once a sentient being.
It could've been a living head
transformed by thoughts
its being preserved, not trapped.

Am I a fossil, then?
Even so, I wouldn't last forever
perhaps till the next eon's dawn.
Then why shouldn't I write poems
with a bare chance to outlive me?

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