

OBJECTS AND ARROWS

*...I will smite every horse with astonishment,
and his rider with madness Zechariah 12:4*

NAME

Among weeds and waters
alongside insects I,
category theorist, tried
to enter a world less
wet more lyrical.

A child at play among pictures
admires the curve of the bow,
the arrowing elegant arc above the
earth-shaped horizons...

I among horizons played.

My fear of water equaled my fear
of horses, I was awash in fears—
my feet were wet, waters stolen,
dripping clepsydra-threatened
timed and timid adventure.

NUMBER

I learned to love while learning to draw it
the numeral 5; I tried to perfect its arcs and angles;
elementary scholar, I wrote letters and dates;
I arithmetized.

STORY

My uncle the seafarer slept in water
the color of mosquitoes (aunts and
uncles a class of people prone to
stories to naming
things after themselves).

*

Aristotle's classes of things that can
be named, can be: *katagoria. Praedicamenta.*

Shipboard libraries. Each of us keeps packed
a sack of necessities—things nameable
this was the age of radiation
and fear of the future.

NUMBER

"By reason of time we count By reason of
space we measure By reason of matter we weigh"

I did my arithmetic curving the belly
of the five, keeping its angular origin sharp.

My toy bow, my sharp arrows for Christmas,
my targets and tangents lost;
but once I did pull strings and launch
random messages.

This was the age of fear
of radiation, of radicals.

PICTURE

Greek and German ground into
English; mélange, my mind wanders.
why not notice
the things you notice, consider
the things you don't? beneath vision
is virtue, too.

Imagine means see a picture;
i.e. a boy on a horse
along a cliff along a river beneath
a sky above a past

something which is is said in many ways.

NUMBER

Of the earth's water, found and made,
ninety six per cent is sea water
two percent groundwater two
percent ice

which leaves vapor, rain in progress,
tears, the famous human body bundling
a negligible percent, a body
worn that way, casual and seductive.

*

Starring, asterisked, risked.

This was an age of risk, of uranium
fortunes.

*

To describe a thing is to inform, form

*to measure the amount of information in an object
measure the length of the description of the object*

ANIMALS IMAGINED

A boy on a horse,
A boy on a horse along a river.
Less simple—time intervenes thieftish.
A boy on a horse in the rain along a river.
A picture emerges from mist—faint rain
hiding the regnant risk arrowing rain,
boy lost on a horse in the rain along a river,
a high bluff beside water. Story.
The bit firm in the horse's mouth
the hand of the boy unfirm.
Tremble.

*

Measure in words, syllables, letters.
Measure the height of a horse in hands,
human hands
which tremble.

*

What we played we played, dangerous
only in retrospect.
If it can be remembered
it was survived.
Cowboys and Indians,
inelegant era of imagined
real horses in radiant landscape;
only the rivers remain.