



Benjamin Goluboff

Two Poems

Bob Dylan and Entourage 1964,
by Daniel Kramer, Gelatin Silver Print

Kramer traveled with Dylan
for a year and a day
as '64 became '65.
Shot him playing pool in Kingston,
chess at Woodstock,
and backstage in New Brunswick, N.J.,
where he posed,
a slim ironic bride,
in the arms of Johnny Cash.

Here Kramer takes him
in the dressing room
of Princeton's McCarter Theater
with Allen Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky,

and Barbara Rubin.
Kramer frames them
in the dressing room mirror,
and what we see are their reflections.
Kramer himself stands
back in the right corner,
almost out of the frame,
his face mostly obscured
by the camera.

Orlovsky, long and elegant,
leans in the other corner,
dissembling boredom.
Rubin stands at the center
of the composition
not even bothering to dissemble.
Dylan and Ginsberg
sit in the foreground,
talking to each other.

The picture's focal point
is not Ginsberg,
who is turned three-quarters
from the mirror,
his bald spot exposed,
his face largely unseen.
And it is not Dylan,
who wears the harmonica holster,
holds a cigarette,
and seems to be speaking.
on the exhale.
The focus of the composition
is a point on the line
between the two men's faces:
a line on which their words travel.

In Hades the Shade of Wat Tyler Receives the Shade of Ho Chi Minh; They Embrace

It would be more a modernist underworld
than a straight-up Homeric model:
Mandelstam's Hades or H.D.'s,
where all the infernal detail is merely assumed.

So there, when the ferryman turned back
and Ho set foot upon the smoking bank,
Wat Tyler, stout Kentish fist-waver,
would greet him with:

*When Adam delved and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman?*

To Wat would Ho reply:

*Those who walk the road know it is hard:
Scale one mountain and another appears.
But once you mount the highest peak,
10,000 miles appear before your eyes.*

They would embrace then, and turn their faces inland,
where Ho would join the plenum of the dead.

Benjamin Goluboff has published poems, fiction, and essays in such publications as *Cabinet*, *Anobium*, *The Ilanot Review*, *Sugar Mule*, *Hadyden's Ferry Review*, and *Cactus Heart*. He teaches at Lake Forest College. More of his work can be read at www.lakeforest.edu/academics/faculty/goluboff/.