



Photograph from GoiPad.

Peter N. Sherburn-Zimmer

Two Poems

Wonderland Racetrack Faces Demolition

Cages in the window.
Cigars in the upholstery.
Saturday morning

At my aunt's house . . .
Another fiction displaced.

Aunt Ida's in northern Rhode Island.
Broken glass in the bathroom.
My grey-child face in the mirror.
Jars of sweat, deadly smelling lotions,
Obnoxious
In the cabinet.

Tall feet on the edge of the sink
Steadied by adventure
Unknowing impatience
And then:

The electricity right up through my elbows
From the brown light socket—
Salvation through the TB uncle . . .
Wherein lies the fantasy?
In what didn't happen
Or in what did?

Pointillism

Something to set aside the shade,
A little obscurity, perhaps,
The digression while we stack the interview
With neglect, a change of typeface—
Obscurity, you say, preparing
The text for redemption from handwriting,
Desert storms, the return of the sea
Up the dry riverbed, cuneiforms for accounting,
Hieroglyphs beyond respect, the inability to tell
Touch from touch, disintegration before the next invasion,
Pop-eyed with innocence.

We mutter in clay, drink apple juice in respite,
Look forward to the exchange, needle for needle,
Across meridians, microcosm to macrocosm . . .
She turns her face away from the window's glaze
And we are back on track.
Our gnomon on a cloudy day
Points inward from that outward
As we pass from shadow to lucid moment.

Wrought for that part of his mother's ego
Dancing in the park in a new quest—
The leaves as they lay flat in their unrest
Play down the chorus. The word she can't hear,
The shadows make their way back to the kitchen counter,
Listlessly leaning at the outlet, smoking,
Watching the clock ticking, its circle,
Taking her turn washing the dishes—
One more baby from the dance floor,
One more measure of white soda on her apron,
Slowly wrapping her afternoon in dry memories
For pasta and papa and pastries:
An interlude in the exchange for devotion.

Peter N. Sherburn-Zimmer calls himself an “anarchist, pacifist, agnostic, slum kid with Ph.D., former academic, retired philosopher.” He has published two books of poems: *Selected Poems: 2004–2005* and *Approximations*. His work has been published in anthologies and broadsides by Jerome Rothenberg, Vince Storti, Ronald Sauer and Rebecca Peters, Fanny Renoir, and Neeli Cherkovski.