AN UNFINNISHED THEOLOGY  for Lissa Wolsak

Barry McKinnon

\[\text{the angel} \quad \text{an attention become belief}\]

a particular place (False Creek - a point, a bay with boats in the gray I thought, or think it now, the heart - this cliché contains its loss, - yet gives.

\[\text{authenticity, momentary point of being}\]

\[\text{ferries what appears}\]

\[\text{do you want to walk?}\]

the angel asks

\[\text{how do you want to be loved?}\]

\[\text{(death disappear turn its head.}\]

then I rose to an edge of being

and the shadow in my mind pushed aside the rest

and I saw
desire, 

itself the thing I desired. 

to say love, to dismiss that against it. 

it is you 

tansfiguring 

the gray that lights us; jewels in my eyes, parts of bone, splinter, feather 
ginkgo, goose, - a wish for flight though flesh be gone. so we will wish it 
know it pain & sweetness of 
it, an ideal we dismantle 
to fill the hole of want & of what be left of time 

measure minutes, the unfair ticks of eternity, the second opening 
to glimpse mortal body, beauty of no words 
to say it & language of all we'll have to hold to 

the inaccuracies to allow 

the unfinished theology embodied in this space of thought that attracts/ 
detracts in a simultaneity we know not what 
to call. all I could say in a whisper - 

god bless you. 

what did the angel ask who has come in mortal form - 

are you all right? 

I answered torment & pleasure of space & time (energy of the impossible that makes 
us look/see again, to reverse 

become. 

the angel said: I came to love
by examination of

its shadows

so

in

shadows we'll be found  our point of loss
to illumine dark  in these shadows
& the light beyond

there is no heaven, but the procreative moment.

I address you

angel

- a prayer,

desire
self and world unfinished

Barry McKinnon’s *The the* was nominated for the Governor General’s Award for poetry in 1980. *Pulp Log* was the winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Award for the B.C. Book Prizes in 1991 and *Arrhythmia* was the winner of the bp Nichol Chapbook Award for the best chapbook published in Canada in English in 1994. His chapbook *Surety Disappears* was the runner-up for the bp Nichol Award in 2008 and his most recent books include *In the Millennium* (New Star, 2009) and *The Centre: Poems 1970-2000* (Talonbooks, 2004).