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AN UNFINISHED THEOLOGY *for Lissa Wolsak*

Barry McKinnon

the angel 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.

authenticity, momentary point of being

ferries what appears

*do you want to
walk?*

the angel asks

how do you want to be loved?

(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

transfiguring

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).

