

To Die Before Death

*First she created Eros
- Parmenides of Elea*

To die before death, to live
free from the fear of dying
the promise of her mysteries.

Transported — not by death
she assured him
Goddess of Many Names

taking him by the hand
welcoming him in peace
to her nether realm

where wishes come true
opposites together
intentions are always of the best

where her daughters (Justice, Proportion,
Necessity, Fate and the rest
keep things in order —

to learn the Path of Truth
confirmed by insight and perception.
Nothing comes from nothing she told him.

*What is here, is here now.
To be aware and to be
are the same, coextensive*

aspects of continuum,
changeless timeless one
reality much of a muchness

no measures no magnitudes —
the shape of the mind itself,
nothing but relation (yet more

than a verbal copula
to twist logicians into knots
over metaphysical riddles).

Contingency, trial and error,
to believe both there is and is not
that opposites exist

that what is can perish
that the living can imagine death —

thus the Path of Seeming

the way of two-headed mortals.

What is not, is not.

What is cannot not be.

What can't be thought, isn't.

Appearance is real but untrue.

Objects of sense are mere names.

Seduced by reason into seeing
invisible unity
within the abundance of things

that satisfies the demands
of irrational numbers
and fluent primal matter

he was returned to his senses
where he wrote out his vision
in praise of Persephone

Hekate who enjoins the sexes
to make three of one and one,
mind of body parts

Aphrodite Ourania
who keeps the heavens revolving
in time to the beat of her heart.