

Sexuality the Vanishing-Point

Men and women are signifiers
- Jacques Lacan

Sexuality the vanishing-point of meaning
a figure of mental instability played out
in the register of demand and desire which,

like zero, is both constitutive and empty, a longing
for an imaginary object, an other, by a purely
linguistic subject in a futile gesture against death.

Exiled from the Real, we feel incomplete,
lose ourselves in desire, imagine ourselves
fulfilled in love, a floating signifier.

Short of castration . . . man has no chance of enjoying
the body of woman, of making love, for male love
is poetry and a world exists between

poetry and the act of love, which act
is the polymorphous perversion of the male, his
taking on the cause of his desire.

Of course everyone knows that for two to make one
has never happened, yet *We two are one*
underwrites the very idea of love;

though sexual reproduction entails the death of the subject
Love thy neighbor as thyself lays down as law
the abolition of sexual difference,

disguises the myriad failings of sexuality
in the flexible reflection of like to like
the mantic abracadabra of metaphor

the imagination's very *raison d'être* is to sublimate
difference into believable unions,
seduce domains of desire into verbal contortions —

alphabetic belief in wholeness for instance, a point
of identity, absolute certainty —
sexual love as the ultimate form self-

recognition, absence filled with presence,
the gap between desire and reality closed,
the ever-elusive other outwitted,

each sex in the eye of the beholder
standing for the poetic possibility
of what is always impossibility —

true love having nothing to do with sex:
jouissance satisfaction not of desire
or instinct but of the death drive.