

The Given in Being Given

There is no future in the past
- Ken Wilber

Summing it all up in a theory of everything —
sex, ecology and spirituality —

yet left with formless awareness, a simple feeling of being,
we cannot forget time's perplexing reality.

Never to know again the love we gave then
to those we see now only in old photos

never to hold who we were before we met,
however much we may love or think we love

those we think we see in who we are now:
those nights by unspoken mutual consent

left vague — how much we don't want to know.
The one we think of for instance as you then

giving yourself wholeheartedly to the one
you felt perfectly suited your desires and expectations

who turned out to be absolutely not the right one.
The one we think of for instance as who I was

giving himself wholeheartedly to one
after another, surprised every time how the given

is not only undiminished in being given
but enhanced with the experience

of one's love dying then being reborn
with new eyes in being given to another

or love itself once dead reappearing
in forms called for by each particular love.