

Both comic and dangerous
the foolishness and falsifications
regarding origin fantasies
repeatedly reasserted by
purveyors of disciplinary knowledge

as they tend to think of it
— abstract speculation for instance
on concepts rejoined to their metaphors
either for better (as vital concrete
singularities) or for worse

(analogical illusions
underlying all thought) —
a faith that truth abides in the past
in non-abstract images
available to cognition

Metaphysical polyvalent
nostalgia for various essences
prior to language primordial states
words should be good for evoking
radiant images reconnected

through however unlikely means
behind the biological murk
the psychological labyrinth
the theological fumes and mirrors
to something paternally ultimate

firmly felt for the most part
to incorporate at bottom
both history and contingency
keeping in mind what is not to be spoken
should go without saying

Neglecting to teach themselves *that* the path
back to the birth of words loops again
through consciousness conceiving itself,
that consciousness is consubstantial
with language, born in the same instant

of origin-myth out of the babble
of infancy, enunciation
of sounds understood by others who speak
the same tongue — consciousness language
and history all compact

not in infinite regression
to *ille tempore* at the head
of an infinite quantified empty track
but a marginal that guarantees
synchronic coherence of the system

Tending to ignore linguistics as such
the obvious fact that their object of desire
is a fetish fashioned from mere grammar,
the linear logic and word order
of a certain language family —

definite articles added to
adjectives and verbal nouns
generating universals,
a common verb signifying
to exist or *to be available*

used as a copula so something
understood without being expressed
is taken as having existence,
encouraging identification
of what is with what is thought

Scholastic classifiers
in good logic-chopping fashion
not taking sides in the endless struggles
between fearful complexities
but searching for means to preclude struggle —

contending forces becalmed in sameness
aesthetic sensibility safe
within equilibrium
inanimate as organic art
intent on maintaining a place

in the departmentalization

their intellectual networks face
while downplaying the ruthlessness
that led them to universal order
as their vision of truth and reason

whose secret notion of what they do
is neutralized specialized
sustained self-purification
minimizing the content of their work
reinforcing the corporate wall

of guild consciousness social
authority and exclusionary
discipline around themselves
precluding non-specialists
defending their tiny fiefdom

their mysteriously pure subject
against all others in effect
institutionalizing themselves
as a religious community
despite their avowed secularism

Some principle contrary
or flat out hostile to life
a heavenly agent programmed
to assassinate the future
by destruction of human will

through curricular strangulation
— Philology a case in point
demeaned since her marriage to Mercury
the god of hidden meanings yet still
the fluent realization of love

of words by the word-loving animal
invested in significations
attached to physical properties
privileging the temporal
proprieties of utterance

This mistress of meaningfulness

sister of Wisdom and Charity
daughter of Nature in her younger years
bundling together semantics hero-
poetry sign-theory

and bloodlines withered now
to academic nit-picking
lint-weaving textillation
one nit at a time —
definition lineage

continuity the grammar
of history the content of poems
held captive in squalid tenements
where individual consent
is all that's required to procreate

Her dowry thrown on the open market
face value and just price
left swinging in dialectic —
never asking why watermarks
of undotted *I*'s left in the record

by literate mammals are felt forever
by anyone who speaks the language,
philologists as Vico said
failing by half in not paying more
heed to the words of philosophers

and to the tricks of their own trade —
establishing original meaning
through interdisciplinary study
grounded in etymology
manuscript *genre* family stem

techniques of dating and locating
identification of facts within
their specific time place *milieu*
peculiarities of a scribe's
orthography or lexicon

the focused attempt to understand
the presuppositions semantic range

natural conditions relations
between orders of knowledge that social
theological psychological signs point to —

but shrinking genealogy
to denotative radicals
related by clauses of Grimm's law
to over-anxious family
resemblance under the influence

resisting the centripetal pull
of art's unprecedented creation
of things uncanny neglecting
the interesting emotional
intuitional moral

genital edges consigning
to mere contingencies the genius
of inheritance the brilliance
of personality tending
to frown upon messengers bearing

consolidation plans budget
cuts or new information missing
for all their worming through texts the point
of Mephistopheles' translations
of John's *Logos* from *Wort* to *Tat*