

## Sexuality the Vanishing-Point

*Men and women are signifiers. . . .  
Speaking of love is itself the jouissance  
- 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,

the point of analysis not an archaeological  
recovery of the subject's infantile crisis  
but to articulate one's relation to the other's desire.

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.