

## As a Couple They Thought

*even when Love predominates  
the vortex exists  
— Empedokles of Akragas*

As a couple they thought going through their changes  
from birth, each one a half contributed

in coitus half of each parent's seed,  
held together in dynamic equilibrium

love and bitterness union and divorce  
a singularity arrayed symmetrically

or think of them he said as the elements  
Zeus Hera Aïdes Nestis

(irrational numbers still a dirty secret,  
the unlimited unconscionable —

though anyone could see an infinite number of tunes  
may play on a single string), justice a give and take

(*reciprocating engine* a phrase from a later time)  
driving the axle, the spindle churning the world-stuff

discord and harmony in everlasting do-si-do  
now all hugs and kisses now a kick in the teeth

to elude love's sweet prison embrace turmoil  
utter disintegration on the spur of the moment.