

To Be or to Merely Exist

I have become a question to myself
- Augustine of Hippo

To be or merely to exist was the question.
To occur between the past that lies before
and the future memory recalls. To believe
that only believing is to truly be.

In pursuit of happiness a dependence
deeper than desire can detect or imagine,
a *primus* prior to all possibilities
of earth-bound experience, giving hope of a future.

To know that we know more than we can tell,
know that to know is to believe, that tacit
alogical knowing precedes rational knowledge,
that unless you believe you shall not understand.

To love not in passion for union with God
nor mankind nor the rest of creation
for that is not love but appetite *libido*
cupiditas a craving for what one can't have.

True love, *caritas*, is given
with no craving, no thought of recompense,
requiting, retribution *or quid pro quo*,
as God's love is or man's for his neighbor,

that fellow who has disdain for mortal existence,
who prays and labors in the community
to build an earthen city in the image of love
where we share with each other our gratitude for life.

The world is the common will of lovers of the world,
yet in the *civitatis dei* love
is turned toward every individual soul.
Each is such as is his love.

To believe only what the heart knows is true,
what memory remembers of perfection
before birth, before existence, before all
that comes and goes so never is.