

Feeling Guilty for Lying

*Desire for knowledge
is the mark of the beast.
- Anne Carson*

1

Feeling guilty for lying
in bed so late in the day

comparing fantasies
for one we could live in

without feeling we were lying
to ourselves again

Not so into the moment
we would, to have our wishes

granted, gladly starve
(not noticing we had died)

Not so into consistent
emotion or predictable

behavior (knowable
if we kept above it)

as to sacrifice
intense immediate

incendiary pleasure
here and now

2

All desire they said
must be frustrated
since in the nature of things

it can never be
satisfied being
by definition

a missing presence a lack
which simply can't exist
under conditions of plenty.

Love on the other hand
thrives on fulfillment
dwindling to nothing

(a ghost of its former self
grown fonder yet)
in scarcity models.

3

To be mindful, to have in mind,
to turn one's attention to, to court
were all one word for them it's said

all *eros* being to some
degree desire for desire
not for the one being desired

not for another object lesson
but to reach for something perfect
in being possible

using one's imagination
(intelligence art language
mind) to bridge the difference

between one desirous and one
perceived to be one desired
(a tenable difference).

Falling in love and coming to know —
both she said make one feel alive
as no other activities do.