

# The Sky is Simply White

by Bill Yarrow

I am accosted by Jean Cocteau  
who counsels me:

read Marinetti  
finish the Brandenburg poem  
understand The Gas Heart  
memorize the Fifteen Propositions of God

take seriously the question what  
have I got to lose

the goat in my throat  
companionless runs wild  
I try to hesitate  
but I traverse the walls

this among others:

*we think in eternity  
but move slowly through time*

this among others:

not A not B  
not this not that  
each is each other  
all is all other  
I am the several subdivisions  
of my fellow man  
living in

Dubuque  
Framingham  
Sonoma

I accept cowardice but only in the light of heroism. I accept the fantastic. I accept the prophetic. I accept the lunatic. Never fantasy. Never lunacy. Nyet to the prophets. My mind rocks back and forth upon itself. One day, the metal will split.

he sleeps

as sentry to his skin: the sun, the water, sand, the wind.

his tongues (2 friends, one grim, one trim)  
roll out sticky,  
but neat as a pin.

in his dreams  
a butterfly  
enters the hole  
in the fat boy's eye.

He shudders.

The rope dancer accompanies herself with her shadows.

Balzac:                    sometimes it seems to me  
as if my brain were on fire  
and I were fated to die  
on the ruins of my mind.

no Brandenburg concertos

no whispers no wind  
all's ushered out  
then it begins

a descent of rain  
a white wind gusts  
the place abounds  
in Icarus

Baudelaire's aspiration: "absolute rest and continuous night"

let wisdom  
rot in prison—

turn) (my cowardice speaks out of

if only I could ease  
of Kings)  
the placid tyranny  
of natural things

(in the petty world

and when the man went back again

the moon had doffed  
its diadem.

*In the dimness of the cafe, the manager is arranging*

*the tables and chairs, the ashtrays, the siphons of  
soda water. It is six in the morning.*

The falcon is on his wrist.

The weather is on his wing.

The sky is simply white.

The rain begins

Cocteau screams

(The rain is no terrible epitaph)

