

J. Michael Wahlgren

GOLD WAKE PRESS, 2010

The Standing

I crawl. I violin pleasure  
We need to ascertain.  
What secure words they say.  
Some speak *'tis what 'tis* until  
Violence enters into play;  
An unknown theft,  
The violin inside  
Notes they play.  
Men as suitors, elbows  
To the sky, a mile high.  
Your composition  
Is phenomenal.  
They can only steal so much.  
They communicate  
Through cries.

To Adam Z.

Only new rhymes come on nights  
When insides of polished rent,  
Keep me contained in a jar. A city

Is where bones walk alive. They  
Shimmer with every breath,  
Shine with every new lie.

Your city. My city. They possess  
New darks. Blues to wake from  
Blues to wake up to.

A magician's scar in the street  
Lights flash like kindling in a forest.  
This city, on this night like a tourist.

*After Adam Z*

You speak in some other language,  
Coming out of your mouth  
Like forms. Diabolical, once, was  
A new one. It moves across tables

As fast as a cloth can be pulled from  
Conversation. To a city, you accept  
Your walls. You bind for the newest piano;  
The lingering of music in veins.

You speak in some new verse,  
Coming out of your veins like candy.  
I spill a lot. I set the table with silverware  
And wait for you to show up, maybe.

To let you crawl amidst diamonds, lest,  
I must abide with some awkward tear, a moment  
To you, a handshaking hurricane  
With fingers opened; its last mnemonic.  
To arrive in a city that lets you crawl,  
The only arriving diamond dances. How *one*  
Comes to *numerals*, the balance  
Of rocks, one must be uncertain.  
This frail girl will no longer become a girl  
Where answers are merely rhymes.

some star makes us holy:  
I lost

the battle of who cares.  
I lost

my souvenir. Who cares  
To say

*once* is the means  
to ambrosia.

You'll try anything twice;  
A second

chance, where meets  
Why?

In a dim corner,  
corridors

open their lockets,  
To reveal

light years. You were  
Altering

*Gospel* from *gospel*. I stood  
You up.