

Dirge for an Entertaining Host

I

i welcome you,
nameless, bouncing from cell to cell
a prisoner who never learns how to die
only how to kill

II

hiding behind liquid & bone,
just enough to make yourself known

III

& whoever used the term *undetectable*
studied a different kind of math than you did
you, whose numbers multiply daily, you
you you you you
my exponential you

IV

i try to imagine what you are like
what personality you have hidden behind
those vacant eyes
what it is like to love someone so small
yet so large at the same time
& i watch you as you swing
back & forth in my head
like a palindrome,
sometimes melodic
I'm aloof. A fool am I,
other times haunting like a repeating burrow in my veins
and DNA and DNA and DNA

V

science tells the reader there are no words before it
faith tells science that there are
we read, regardless, with words in mind
because, even invisible, you breathe

VI
you & i
we, two, became one
& the poet asked,
When did that happen?

VII
you have lived with me for a third
of my life, more than family, more
than friends, more than lovers
will you ever tire of my ways?

VIII
That I should embrace you is, perhaps, the solution. That I should bring you home to mother for
Thanksgiving & Christmas & proudly wrap my arms around you & say, *This is the one with whom I
plan to spend the rest of my life, this is the one with whom I will go to the depths of hell, this is he, my new family,
who needs me in order to survive.*

IX
as your host i shelter you
from the dangers in the outside world.
air, perhaps. alcohol for sure.
as your host i feed you
morsels. my flesh. my blood.
you, my parasite, take what you need to survive.