**Refugium**

when incorrupt corpses oozed the beautiful odor

of paradise

when saints lived when levitation occurred

we were we were light

*light*

& again involuntarily when sulkies saved

the shipwrecked at sea in an age of marvels

in uncertain purgatories

a flock of foreign

tongues volunteered for union – bird with beast &

bipedal mammal –

& again in engravings more numerous

& accessible to individual possession

than those manifold thrills & admonishments cut

from archaic bubbled glass set in lead in chancels

of perpetuity for the improvement

of the unstupid ignorant in colors

more real & convinced of life & again

in the stripping

I don’t know which

of human from animal of *us* from

*them*

when in the beginnings of ownings

& dissimulating

of unconstraint when cerebral texts

printed on paper for the prudent & wise once sculptures

failed to make competing orthodoxies

commonly comprehensible & all the endothermic

the warm-blooded found refugium

in so-called salvifics this long before Emmaus

this long of disciples & martyrs clever

& sensible & large in colorful frescoes

in cathedrals in codices

of transubstantiation: comic books for the ancient thick

-headed

& again when long past traveling Beringia

the purported land bridge across Asia to North America when

in the quest for species survival

hominids strode across that strait

again in advance of ice sheets again *again*

we are treading *treading*

& again when pesticide drift nearly killed every

one of our trees we did horse tranks

& my arms grew long

& longer longer than my legs & I thought *spider or pupae*

or silver-blanketed survivor at marathon’s

end regretting rest in chill in the torpid

insensible is it more or less? & again

when the pipeline

drove straight through our middle/ sullied streams/ hemorrhagic

soil plucked up

behemoth trees mine *mine*

ours *ours* & again when we wake panicky

at two o’clock

or three o’clock in the morning

sometimes we fall back to sleep & sometimes we rise

in the tocsin’s silent swallowed whole