

palimpsest: a parchment or other writing material written upon twice, the original writing having been erased or rubbed out to make place for the second; a manuscript in which a later writing is written over an effaced earlier writing



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palimpsest

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palimpsest

back in time and space isn't much matter

in the beginning

we are of the four

is the isness,

one of many,

the only one.

spring wind water in the shape of fire

what is

first of air • for breath for bearing

is of a piece

infinitely divisible

endlessly whole

the river silver for sun gold dusk

the divisible

second of water for blood for bloom

is the many

and the many

may be made one

the earth mother and always some question who's the father

the whole

third of earth for bone for balance

is the one

and the one

may be divided

in heavy fog light as particle and wave

the one and the many

fourth of fire for light for life

is what is

at the same time

outside time

out of place just in time

time is

of the four fire is foremost

*when the one and the many
move from oneness
to otherness*

clouds over mountains i can't reach what's real

otherness

fire scorches the earth to ash
is not what is
but what is not
not is but i

the high fizz nerve the low boom blood dead silence

i

fire boils the rivers dry

am a single turning
at the center
of the universe

at the very end of time stars

the universe

fire kindles the air to wind

is what i know

as if something

outside time

older than god the cave mouth to hell

but what i know
life is of the flame

of what is
comes from being
in time

a dried worm in the middle of the road with me

what is

and the flame is born of the sun

in time

is not what is

outside time

beside an ancient petroglyph a modern one

time

the sun dispenses light

is what is given

to bring the one

to the many

yet the time after not yet

time

the sun apportions heat

is what is given

to bring the many

to the one

stars more questions than answers

what is given

the sun utters life

is a single turning

at the center

of the universe

becoming after the first light the sun

a single turning

the sun is god

at the center

is the isness

outside time

the sun is god

Some of these poems, sometimes in different versions, have been previously published in the following places:

spring wind: *Acorn* 23
the river silver: *where i leave off*
in heavy fog: *Simply Haiku Summer 2009*
older than god: *Roadrunner* 11:1
the high fizz: *Roadrunner* 11:1