

“Detachment”

Graham

**In the early morning,
Still napping to the arising
Of life for another interval of light,
Awakening
A mesmeric mind to its burdens.**

**And so to engage, slowly alerted
To the demands of the contemporary,
To the insistent, and to the pressing
Capitulating
In sombre social obedience.**

**And to them motivated by self
Energy flowing more immediately,
Charging into tenacious commitment,
Capturing
The present and the prize.**

**Where to be found a rational purpose
For a short life of effort and toil,
A life spent questing materiality and pleasure,
Oblivious
To hope beyond trumpery and trash.**

**And is this life haphazard
A reaction of effort to accident,
Things no sooner acquired than lost,
Abandoning
The delicacy for the dust.**

**Looking for an explanation
Beyond nucleonics and cosmology,
The inner self draws to the Word
Fringing
On the incorporeal infinite.**

**The Word of the Buddha proclaims the Middle Path
Between pleasure and pain,
Viewing the world like an ornamented chariot
Avoiding
All attachment where fools flounder.**

**And the Word of Muhammad proclaims the pilgrimage
Of life, seeking divine knowledge,
To be as a traveler on a night journey
Searching
For the face of the eternal friend.**

**And the Word of the Christ proclaims transformation
Of the mind and heart anew,
What profit is there to him
Gaining
The whole world for his soul.**

**And the Word of Baha'u'llah proclaims the bird
Escaping from the cage of life
Detached beyond all created things,
Soaring
From place to the realm of the Placeless.**

**Thus askance purpose is sought,
Permanency among things impermanent
Otherwise engulfed by the waters of life,
Thrashing
Through waves rather than swimming sweetly.**