

THE CLOCK ON THE SHELF

Part I

A man entered the café
with his girlfriend
She was rather bold
 in her manner
He had a Chaplinesque
 way about him
They were both wearing
baseball caps
 and the same
 chocolate colored T-shirts

Their arrival
conveyed the impression
that all
that was once worthwhile
 in the world
 was finished
“We are just biding time”
was the insinuation

They showed
 enthusiasm
for the coffee and cake
 however
when it was delivered to their table
 and ate in gulps

he asked her a question
that could not be overheard

She shook her head “No”
and brought up
the fork with
 the piece of cake

attached

Then it seemed as though
he was asking
the same question again
and she shook her head “No”
while tasting the cake

the moon
outside the front windows
of the building
was a crescent
and tilted slightly
as they gazed upon it fixedly
and then the scene
was deliberately confused
by the sudden
appearance of fog
across the windows

the couple sat
chin in cupped hand
resembling
a Picasso blue period
painting

The room
after Van Gogh
contained a pool table
in the center
and hanging lamps
spiraling
with the vibrant colors
of yellow and green

Outside the windows
the dense fog
had been made yellow and green
by the reflected head lights of the passing cars

Part II

I forgot to tell you
about the clock on the shelf
The one that hung above the street
and was presided over
by the black cat
with the matted fur
 that lived
 not far beneath the building
 off the scraps
 from the kitchen fare

the woman
 with the baseball cap
resembled the cat
in a similar
 lurking attitude
and cast her eye
 upon the clock
 with folded arms:
“We will just wait and see....”

The fog before the windows
had begun to clear
A reddish glow
came upon everything
and permeated everything
at the same time

Crowds of people
entered the sight
like vipers
 in all shapes and sizes
as though
 the reddish glow
 becoming solid enough
 to break apart

had turned into groups of humans (?)
animated and strange

The glass
in the doors and windows
did not seem to hinder them

They were able
to walk right through

The man and woman
with baseball caps
were more annoyed
than alarmed
and pretended that
nothing much had changed

The clock
ticked above the street
the cat meowed....

After awhile
the reddish tone
and the frenetic pace
abated

It was dark and foggy again
and the place was left empty
save for the couple
still drinking coffee
and eating their chocolate cake

