

I WATCH C-SPAN BECAUSE

I.

"When the terrace is filled with the sound of opinion,
And rockets brace the airy dark with their chords:
I know that something must be known before I leave here.

Africa burns in the Sun's bitter anguish;
Imams are promised, and the blade bleeds anew.
Ghosts of brothers are seen along the promenade,
As the town of Capitol Splendor marks the turning
of each new round.
A witch is heard to speak of coming of one more Romanov;
Ballots are collected by the men who offer salvation.
Scientists proclaim the blanking phallacy of nuclear umbrellas,
As rain falls in acid proportion from the pages of my
dictionary of News.

Before my eyes sits the world in its spirals.
Lincoln cuts a Gordian Knot, and frees the documentary
spirit of Discourse.
Some are without food; some believe armaments are folly.
Some say History dies; others say God eats His children.
A vast image out of precipice mundi blinks across my screen
to see me:
It colors me troubled and colors me crucial;
It etches my worries, and my borders' fallibilities.

II.

"It is not enough that I be wise, for Wisdom is not always Justice.
It is not enough that I be excited, for Excitement breeds Indiscretion,
if left to unlimited concourse.
It is not enough that I be informed; although to be misinformed brings
the cross to my deeds.
One World floats in majestic conception of Ideal Nature;
Many Worlds in turmoil produce a Fire which burns our Name.
I watch to know, believing approximation to Knowledge must mold me;
I love what is great in us,
I weep at Tragedy's insistence.
But I go on, each day carrying History's announcements
in my brain.
I am the sum of my treasury of words,
And I decide the shape of my world through these coins.

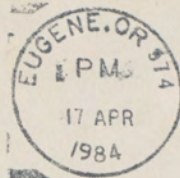
In the collision of all our directions and gods,
Nations fumble with the clothing of that eternal beauty Good Will.
Nations are lost, and again found by their own vigor;
They stand upon some plain, and tend to threaten themselves with
mortality.
And I must know this; I must see it and speak.
And this is why I watch C-Span," the old woman said.

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