

## **A Conversation With A Dog**

Could you please tell me  
To what you attribute  
your elevated place  
Among humans?

They now kiss you  
In the mouth  
And share food with you  
From the same plate.

"Should this surprise you"?  
The dog responded  
To my question  
With a question, then went on  
To explain in an animated way:

"You see, my name passes  
For a contemptible insult in your society.  
But you need not look  
Beyond your own human frailties;  
Fickleness and violent hatred  
In your relations with one another  
Are no match  
For the abiding friendship  
And undying love  
I give you in all seasons."

Can you tell me then  
How such boundless love between you and humans  
Be possible among human beings themselves?  
As if astonished by a strange question,  
The dog began to reply with a rebuke:

"I don't tell anyone  
What to think  
Or what to do.  
I should be the best judge  
Of this oppressive behavior.  
I can't say  
I know for sure the answer  
To that perennial problem.

But humans are said to be endowed  
With the powers of thinking and creativity.  
You can't find a better engine  
That propels thinking and action forward  
Than such a mighty challenge  
As the one before you."

Then as our conversation was drawing to an end,  
The dog left me with these parting words:

"When you finally solve this problem,  
Please don't forget me.  
Otherwise, I also have the capacity  
To bark and bite  
In protest."

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