

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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