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### CONSCIOUSNESS

floats in the delicate  
ether of butterflies,  
brain spilt  
into itself, warbling  
through a garden of grey matter,  
an unmistakable  
interiority that does not emote,  
gabble or quack,  
is pre-syntax and babble,  
reigns like a cloud  
over the birth of flowers,  
gazes across a moat  
into the forest  
of pheromones and photons,  
the din of decibels,  
and into the reservoir  
of itself; a pool  
of unshattered meniscus,  
untouched by the tongue  
that comes out of the mouth,  
flicking the surface  
like trout. Mind sifts  
the pre-syllabic library  
in every ridge and rut,  
lifts on muslin wings  
beyond the circuitry,  
and waits for the anesthesia  
of sleep, when consciousness  
fibrillates, set free  
to orbit in the galaxy  
of Galileo's imagery.  
Without it, worlds that men propose,  
reality or dream,  
would be unmindfully comatose.

## Poems

### SPINE

you have held me in all matters  
of gravity;  
extended, flexed and bowed  
as a reed in the wind.  
Between sculpted blocks,  
viscous pillows absorb  
contortion and shock. All my goods  
are hung upon  
your gallows, viscera  
suspended like avocados from a bough,  
the muscles stitched  
to knobby rack, a ridge  
like Stegosaurus, and dropping down,  
the pelvis wed  
to sacroiliac. Bottom end,  
vestigial bone of my tail; perched  
on top, the locked box  
of my soul. With Newtonian zeal  
you have served my dance and line  
with hubris and strut,  
priest of the bipedal romp.  
There will be pain  
as my plumb-line bends,  
white-hot Camelias sprouting  
from ligaments. In time you will be  
my memory  
when mortality's stripped off the rack,  
you will shiver and rattle  
through earth's cold bite,  
the last witness intact.

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## Poems

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