

Section Editor
Michael H. Brooke, MD

Arthur Ginsberg, MD

Address correspondence and
reprint requests to Dr. Arthur
Ginsberg, 10470 Meridian
Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98133
arthurginsberg@msn.com

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.

Neurology[®]

Poems

Arthur Ginsberg

Neurology 2009;72;380

DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000341326.68872.85

This information is current as of January 26, 2009

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://n.neurology.org/content/72/4/380.full>

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright . All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.

