

@  
at

with  
π

Poems  
gary lundy

# at | with

gary lundy

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Chicago, USA, 2017

\*

every  
day  
has for

him  
been  
inaugural

in that space

prevents  
holding to  
time

as a weapon

weeping  
among a

strand

of trees  
bowed  
in their kind

of prayer

the young  
man  
beaten

with  
wooden  
club

clings still

to a  
sense of  
civility

the  
hospital  
at least

warm

\*

it's not  
the other  
about

the others

nor about  
why  
they've

gathered  
in such  
masses

to offer  
hope

others  
hope  
a one

way

ticket out  
of their

town

out of  
their  
country

will do  
the  
trick

and how  
violence  
erupts

against  
difference

against

unwanted  
children  
against

those

families  
fighting the

cold  
to stay  
warm

require  
we salute  
those

whose  
claim  
arises

from  
denial  
as a

made up  
salvation

or some  
other  
conviction

gleaned  
from a soft  
reading

of a



difficult  
ancient

text

worn down  
through  
many

thoughtless  
revisions

translations

\*

still their  
voices

multiplied

may tip  
a measure

spill it

entirely  
in hearts  
so

encumbered

by fear  
by a hatred  
transparent

in its  
attempt  
to retrieve

what has  
never  
been but

a story  
self actualized

still  
their voice  
silence

those  
whose

discord

detaches

ties around  
the  
unsuspecting

necks aflame

it must  
once  
have been

a good  
life  
even if

only repeated  
lines of those  
fabricators

bent  
on violation

\*

those others  
always  
too wrong

even when  
grounded in  
listening to

hear

rather than  
to speak

so that we  
all yell  
about

the others  
and their  
naïveté

ignorant

unexamined

privilege

so that those  
whose  
power if not

in the air

in our lungs  
keep  
themselves

safe

watching all  
the rest  
fight among

themselves

laying blame  
at easy

targets the

well meaning

so that the  
water and  
trees

the mothers  
and daughters  
sons

whose dance

remembers  
the  
other sons

whom  
they all  
destroy

along  
with those  
few

invested

in such

carnage

all finished  
all done  
all without the

necessary

breadth of  
breath  
to get things

done

to make  
change  
last

instead  
throw your  
voice

sharply

against  
those others

voices

guaranteeing  
failure  
prior

to any  
set  
of activities

of actions

that might  
accomplish  
some form

as a kind  
of  
unifying

\*



it is  
impossible  
for

those  
privileged

to  
understand  
their

normal

is not

universal

nor more  
even  
than

personally  
learned

especially  
when

listening

grows so  
terribly  
difficult

as when  
blame the  
only

game

allowed

by those few  
in charge

who bask  
in  
spin

platitudes

listen  
carefully

come to  
understand

if only  
as a child

value  
those others  
whose lives

teach  
another  
legitimate

experience

so strangely  
different

so that

those  
privileged  
might come

to

understand

and

join those  
others  
their efforts

to change  
the  
apparently

small

world we  
all  
share

own a  
small piece  
of

\*

violence  
takes  
only

seconds  
to  
sway

lenses  
and  
recording

devices  
broken  
windows

burning  
trash  
fires

never  
mind  
outrage

never  
mind  
righteousness

only  
eyes  
believe

what  
we  
see

and it  
is  
always

real  
as  
real

as the  
color  
of

smoke  
or  
smooth

as ice  
covered  
water

whether  
the  
cause

celebratory

or  
simple  
measure

out of  
frustration  
out

of alarm  
and  
maybe

that  
unsteady  
emotion

a result  
merely  
of

chemistry  
we  
dub

love  
all

that

can  
be  
seen

is the  
evident  
destruction

captured  
angled

and  
some are  
surprised

when  
those  
more

practiced  
at  
subtle

and  
egregious  
violence

complain  
that



opposition

equates  
to  
mere thugs

thus  
reduced  
to

lawlessness

which  
they then  
exterminate

\*

keep them  
busily  
outraged

by  
act  
after

act  
articulated  
aim

to  
obscure  
what

underlies  
what  
grows

mass and  
wings  
to

beat down  
each  
boundary

getting  
in their  
way

profile  
the only  
cause

they  
celebrate  
and

like  
minded  
few

others  
poised  
quietly

to pounce  
behind  
their

orchestrated  
voracious  
appetite

by

design

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