Winter 1957

On Perceiving a Child

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guy I ever knew. He and that damned knife. It's a hell of a note, when a guy has to get himself killed in order to rejoin the human race.

Well, much obliged for the beer, friend. Got to shove off. Be seeing you.

On Perceiving a Child ...

This child wending her way
down the terrible staircase
like a cautious brook
moving between defiant rocks
and singing a bright babble
of October over the color of leaves
and the life that remains
imbedded in this hill,
skips down, down, down
the staircase.

Her eyes, oriental in this mist,
are ancient as praise and wonder.
Green rubber bands secure
dark hair that Adam touched,
and a pink printed dress
enfolds a prophecy of flesh
made parodox made flesh.
Now she does not fear at the sound
of Wolves, the City or of Winter,
but descending learns
a million tricks.

Tomorrow is already habit
in her limbs while her song
rings beyond wisdom
as she skips down, down, down
the staircase
to womanhood.

... John Murphy