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## translations [1], [2], [3]

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translations

[1]

Paintings of mine burned  
when my sister's house caught fire.  
Others were lost, sold for drugs, ruined  
when the pipes burst at the farm  
and we were all so far from home.

You're in a place that feels familiar.

The sky is so blue and they're talking so  
loud on the wires out there—how can I  
sleep?

Sometimes after I've spent the night  
explaining myself to you...

"Wow, this wire is huge."

"This is the new religion."

I believe he said: "At the end of the  
tunnel, a light." I'd never heard the  
expression.

What is tired will rise.

"Shit. There's a live wire in my bed."  
("It won't hurt you," he says.)

I knew he was somebody  
from the future. And I knew:  
I was supposed to know who.

“Were you always like that?”

I say yes, but later think: who knows  
what I was like? (having just the usual  
handful of mental snapshots)

“If you bring forth what is within you,  
what is within you will save you.”

“radiant dust”

Steel  
has to be made  
of steel.

[2]

Next: the house

Here is my witness.

could be razed  
by the time you arrive.  
You could find me  
sleeping on the dirt.  
Underneath that blanket,

“a whole new system of faith”

protected  
by the boxes I brought west.  
The silverware.  
The farm equipment. [rust]

to suggest that something started  
and then ended

Well, the celebration got underway. We  
were all sitting under a very big tree and  
had a lot of picnic stuff and other stuff of  
ours around. They lit the cornfield on fire  
then. Part of the usual ritual. [smoke]

to suggest that something started  
and then ended

So far, there are the dreams, and the  
longing. I fell asleep and I was telling her:  
“It’s amazing, I know, but you could have  
another life.”

That time allows us to see  
what we were blind to and to become  
blind to what we’ve seen.

[3]

People were telling their earliest  
memories.

What do amnesia and building  
renovation have in common?

Sitting on the wall up at the school.

We were where you stop and I begin.

“Boats broken loose were trying to get in  
at closed windows.” (You covered my eyes  
with your hand.)

“Standing at the screen door, looking at  
thesky, who did we dream  
we could become?”

Met a friend, a woman that I liked. Then  
it turned out she was the one I sometimes  
spoke to in the supermarket, noticing the  
soft spots in fruit. She gave me a key to  
her garage.

When you fix up an old house, you have  
to tear away a part of it.

Earlier I was a child, and my friend grew  
breasts and had to drop me. “Let’s take a  
walk anyway,” I said, “We can still have  
some fun.”

Nice to see you again.