**Fear 2**

1.

two creatures live in me

lodged in my soul

like a virus in the spine:

herpes of the mind

a darkened box

sets fire the tinder

in my reptilian core

i know how a lizard feels in a concrete hole

the other

binds me to the intangible

i am a victim of nothing

a sensual, palpable, nothing

2.

the idea of my death

doesn’t disturb me

a short passage from here to not

how could i care?

i could flee from life.

find a desert island

a last remnant, final

a dot on the barren horizon

but my island is here

between chair and table

i serve myself dinner

reheat coffee

3.

i was king for ten minutes

and no one knew but me

i was a pauper without a song

and the crowds closed around me

for a brief time

all the flags were pointing my way

saying here’s the guy

he has a voice, you know

the wind has long since changed

i’m back in my chair

still, ten invisible minutes

is better than cold leftovers

4.

ok, i woke up this morning

chose a head for the day

actually, it chose me

but that’s a cliché, and i was avoiding it

this head is uncombed, unshaven

that’s good enough, i don’t

look at myself in mirrors

why bring up issues?

the sleeping dog

at the foot of the stairs

bit me on the ass yesterday

today i step over without waking him

5.

i sort of wanted to cry

lock myself in my room

and not be a man

for a few precious minutes

i didn’t do it

why bother?

i wouldn’t be scoring

points with anybody

instead, i turned my attention

toward the screen of my tv

there is nothing like nothing

to make you feel nothing

6.

i have broken with myself

i no longer wish to be part of me

my philosophies have changed

and i’m irrelevant

it would be easy now

to say i don’t know who i am

but lies

are always the easiest

i know exactly who i am

i’m the guy

who knows

he has broken with himself

7.

fear is in the mind

the future

stretching out unending