the real (an apology)

we cannot afford

in a multidimensional life

to live on lines

but we do as we think we must

we give those lines

the endings we think they deserve

one end in utter dark

the other in purest light

all lines have a spectrum

a shading

between one extreme

and the other

a line without shading

is not a line

it is a pair of points

having zero dimension

we debate, we smarties

whether a pair of points

may be joined by a line

it is hard not to do so

the real and the unreal

may be posited

for the purposes of poetry

as such points, or a line

in fact, they are points

with an imaginary line between them

the line does not extend

past real and unreal

between them is a shading

the perfectly real

the less than real/more than unreal

the completely unreal

when we suggest

the surreal, magically real, or hyperreal

we cannot locate them

on the line between points

we are locating them

in the three-dimensional space

that surrounds the line

between the two points

theorists get paid

to think of new binaries

new oppositions, new lines

in truth, there are none

i am a theorist

and i constantly succumb

to the temptation

of the easy answer

so what i’m telling you

is that i’m sorry

but you’re wrong

and i take full responsibility