PORTRAIT OF A MAN

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Abstract
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1.

You should’ve been admiring the brilliant world,
the pouring dictionaries but instead
I pass the men’s parliament

At the check-out, he repeats the machine’s instructions
which I click, passed to and fro between us
like a precious baby

2.

"You should be more conducive
grateful for my chair
What difference will one make anyway?
I know better than to ask"

Machines dribble over the tables, the floor
to failed enterprise
to comports of paper waiting for alchemy
that stink of all you’ve read

mitre of application, towering reward

3.

As the carving renovations at dawn replace the unified subject
unlegislated birds shine in dim afternoon,
each visit an amendment

You asked if you should marry
and then did
but thinking every jibe’s at you

I miss what you were being supremely
not an edge, now surrounded by humourless nature
razed landscape like a carpet
and people like windows