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## PORTRAIT OF A MAN

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### **Abstract**

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

# Gig Ryan

## PORTRAIT OF A MAN

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 composts 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