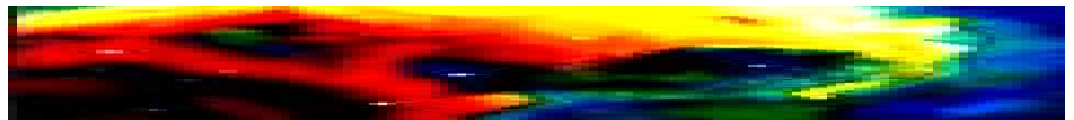


WHERE DID I DANCE

Where did we dance the dance of dances?
Where did I dance wrapped in a cloud of star dust,
The sun on my right, the moon on my left,
Mercury imparting visions of forms perfected,
Mars yielding the toned clamour of the clash of swords,
Jupiter communing omniscience, Saturn omnipotence?
Where did I dance measuredly revolving with the revolving spheres,
My eyes two galaxies, my hair threading the Milky Way
With Venus a crown and the Pleiades a circlet adorning the brow?
Where did I dance seeking the sphere of spheres
Within without, all embracing, all-encompassing,
The fountainhead, the matrix, the essence of all music?
And yet I danced, I danced with my right hand caressing the stars
My left hand touching to the earth, feeling the powerful tree trunks,
Harvesting the myriad hews of flowers?
Tell me in what lost garden did I fall into step
With the majestic foot-falls of the cosmic dancers
Treading lightly, vibrantly upon the floors of the universe,
Unseen, yet ten thousand times seen, unheard, yet eternally heard,
Unfelt, yet penetrating the marrow, reddening the blood, stringing
the sinews
Where did I dance, my beloved rising to meet me
Astride monumental shafts of cascading light,
Amidst the whirlpools of the cosmic wilds
And waste upon waste of star-studded universal meadows,
With meteorites and asteroids sliding off his hands
As his fingers plucked his strings, then paused to pluck them again.
Where did we dance, in what forgotten age
In which lost kingdom, in which hidden Eden, the moment
The music died, the moment the light went out
Irrevocably lost because irretrievable
Yet only retrieved beyond this time this life this our city of the world.

ANEMONIES

I know that in the spring of the year
I shall rise in the sap



I know that in the small reds of the anemones
I shall sink into the rising sun.

