

Seven Steps To The Temple At Nara

I

there is no God
only human kindness
but I find it easier
to believe in God

II

I'm so exclusive
I'm not even in the formbook
I have an unlisted
Identity

III

I'm looking for some Authority
to validate
the identity card
I find myself carrying

IV

my mind is a city
where park is a verb, not a noun
it's a fine place to visit
but

V

did you ever have the feeling
the whole world is under arrest
for being suspicious characters
without visible means of support

VI

I'm afraid of the altitude
when I look down on my depressions
from the vantage point of the mountains
I have manufactured out of molehills

VII

here I stand
in this querencia
death will not move
unless I do

-- L. R. N. Ashley
New York, New York