

The cups are arranged as variables
the matches struck
one by one
the cigarettes consumed
over a period of four hours
the cards shuffled, dealt,
played out and restacked
the ash tray filled with butts.

2.

This time stones and watches,
fragments of stained glass
three nude photos of orgies
stuck in and out
of an envelope
the envelope wrinkled
the stones gathered in a gold box
the fragments of stained glass
absorbing various light intensities
then darkness and the watches
stop.

3.

A rose in a broken bowl
a ragged red rose
wilted, scentless
petals falling off
filling the broken bowl
with the color
of smeared lipstick.

Short Dialogue

Philosopher: Do you think you have solved the problem?

Poet: I am not sure what the problem is all about.

Philosopher: Can you state the problem?

Poet: I cannot state it properly. I mean I cannot
state it as a philosopher. I can only state it
as a poet.

Philosopher: State it as a poet.

Poet: When all things are possible, the possibility
of the impossible then becomes impossible.

Philosopher: Yes, that is the problem. By stating
it, you have solved it.

-- Ben Pleasants

Beverly Hills CA