

things that I didn't think were
funny at all.

I think I even make some
of our cats laugh.
well, maybe not laugh but
I see their mouths curl up
in what looks like a
smile.

but not my wife.
"people don't know what you're
talking about," she will say.

"I'm being subtle"

"no, that's not subtle; people just
don't know what you're trying
to say"

just think of it, all these people
are just pitying me, they are
laughing out of embarrassment
for me.

looks like I'm no challenge
at all
to David Letterman.

VOUCHSAFEMENT (1990)

did you ever see a horse with a leg
just broken
trying to stand on that
leg?

I don't have the guts to watch, I
have to look away into the
stands, and then there's another
sight: all those human faces
and I have to look away again,
there's a charge of darkness, you
are aware of your heart, your
throat, your parts, your mind and
what's left of the spirit, that's
when the death-wish comes, that's
when you know that you've never
done anything right —
take the horse away, the humans,
the cities, the trash of history,
just leave my shoes, untied, the
left one upright, the right one on
its side, there like that, stalled
in reflection.