

Starfall

1.

The Leonid Meteor Shower
rained over our house last night
Bombs bursting for nothing but beauty,
Fireworks honoring nothing but the universe.

The sparks that escape this night,
Reborn, in a way,
will be exactly my age when they light our sky again.

Selfishly, perhaps,
I place my pocketful of wishes
on meeting them then;
on an end with some beauty,
some meaning,
and another pair of eyes to see a time beyond.

2.

Draped in night
I wondered who else stood beside me on this earth,
eyes upward,
as the sky's light turned
from the flames of falling angels
to the fixed goddess of the dawn.

3.

In the airport basement
I was passed
by a busload of figures in fatigues
Men younger than I,
with death in their hands
and names on their uniforms,
unnoticing.

The first time you see this you're not reassured;
one side suggests the other.
For an unreasoning instant I was seized with fear
and then I felt like crying.

In another moment they had disappeared
into a distance I couldn't see.
But I guess this column has been passing before me all my life
No time, no words, no end in sight.

Adam McGovern
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