

## PYRAMIDS & ASSORTED LOCATIONS

*For Kristin Taavola*

1.

Everyone, including bystanders,  
deserves a pyramid, a way  
to define us into triangles  
that capture the mind bouncing  
off some ugly walls, &  
align it pointing into space.

2.

Prepared or ill-prepared,  
it all goes to hell at  
a moment's turn, motorcycle thuds  
under SUV or sun shaft perforates  
your darkest well, filling it  
with stars.

3.

People leave their images  
at assorted locations in mind space.  
Are those images theirs or mine?  
Were they composed together  
from a story that has chapters  
but no finale? Where the characters  
write the author? Dandelion seeds  
migrate sunlight to  
varied ends, like impulses  
you can't keep track of, & some  
how that's the beauty of it.

4.

Manjusri's sword cuts the cables  
that nevertheless helplessly sprout between  
objects like drunken madmen flailing  
for a handhold.

Manjusri has a lot of work to do,  
a swirl of razor blades, a word  
etched in the imagination, sustained  
there even as it fades to invisibility.

5.

The messenger gets up off the couch,  
stumps over to a pyramid, delivers  
the news: "Your time was up.  
You lived it to its last second.  
You got your complete allotment.  
Stop spinning. Sit down. Consider it  
your get out of jail free card."

Well, then. That's it. The snake  
contemplates the rabbit contemplating  
the snake. Resolve that &  
the door raises on the next scene.

6.

The gods want to help. Seems  
like they're surveying a  
dismal scene, like complicated  
wreckage & asphalt cloud  
of blood. They'll enter any room  
unperturbed by the gloom. But sometimes  
even Anubis just shakes his head.

7.

Sunlight fingers a leaf anyway.  
What's the sun & what's  
the leaf? & which the divine lips  
descending & which  
the divine lips as they rise?