

or maybe you
have never been
swimming
in a lake with
a village at its
depths. if not, i'll
take you, we'll go, i know
just the place—as long
as the dam
isn't open.

because light is not always easy
to find.
but ask me for light and i will
give you
what little i have.
i can't
give it all, but i will
give you
all that i can
and still go on living.

because gods can't always hear
prayer, because god is a busy rose
light. But I, not being god, yes, i will endlessly
listen, i will hear you, see you, smile
toward each moment dull or exciting, taciturn
or raging., palsyng or
still

i can
because we are—most
of us—glad to be here at this dinner party, ceilinged from rain, and pretty as
the tuft-swept downpour outside, until suddenly I feel elsewhere and step
out into pluvial fury, toward the you at a
bus stop, blank-faced as you holler
my name like i
know who
you are