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Lines

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Lines

Cover Page Footnote

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LINES

Composed after brief reflection upon the tremendous opportunities before us and the tendency they might have to overwhelm us and become rulers rather than servants

what do you do
when there's
all kinds of mystery
before you
the church } many implications
and scripture } here
other knowledge
and beauty and books and prayers
and all.
you've got to
write and work and read
and study and run
and laugh and eat and sleep
and walk in the rain
and even watch tv and dust the shelves
and everybody recommends books
that you've got to read or perish
and lectures and concerts and plays
and they keep printing books and
magazines and the newspapers come
rolling to the door
with splash and scream
and sometimes subtlety
and always certainty
you try to grab at all and
your arms slip away
holding names maybe facts
but no insight

you aren't changed
you're not better
your mind is maybe a
little more tightly packed
but your you is nearly the same.
the whole thing about these
great mysteries
is that they're
mysterious
and mighty too mysterious
even for an enlightened mind
you've got to look at them
and respect them
and try to take away
a thimble of the ocean
and smell it and drink it
and taste it and
stop maybe
to pray
and hope that your brother
in a way small or large
has also savored a drop
and respects both
the drop and the sea
and maybe in some
mysterious communion
in some secret
ineffable touch
you and he will share
your sacraments
or in some wordless
contemplation will
come the soft smile
of reverence
and love

—jj attinasi csb