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## Living in the Apocalypse (5)

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### **Cover Page Footnote**

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### LIVING IN THE APOCALYPSE (5)

Subtraction, Truth  
*Corn Hill, Rochester, NY, early autumn*

*"Even though it seems like adding . . . poetry is subtracting."*

*– Li-Young Lee*

I go downtown  
between Main and Court  
to see the poet  
of silence. He speaks  
of apocalypse—this mode of uncovering—  
our duty as artists.

I concede,  
taking the wrong turn  
home.

In the midst of this war  
I get lost in Corn Hill, an early  
part of this city. I have

no idea where I am, no way  
to find East Avenue  
again, lost in neighborhoods

which exist only because  
I've gotten lost in them.  
I concede, Li-Young, I agree

wholeheartedly. Here, somewhere  
in the belly of Fitshugh, I know  
you are right. This is the point:

the peeling away, layers  
like delicate, sunburned skin  
Each shaving wrinkling

beneath my hard hands, my fingers  
burning with touch.  
The excavation

of what is presumed  
lost, missing, dead.