1966

Ecumenism

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Cover Page Footnote
Appeared in the issue: Volume 11, Number 1, Winter 1966.

This poem is available in The Angle: https://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol1966/iss1/21
There is this pair
of dogs,
neighbors of mine:
the one a German shepherd
straight strayed from Wittenberg, they say;
the other a molding mottled mongrel,
his pure and primal parentage
in mesegetrie meandering
long lost sight of . . .
I never saw them approach
but within snarling distance
save now and then
when at each other's throats
they rent
the peaceful parish air
with piercing screeches
and pompous doggy threats . . .

I've even seen them
lie together
of an afternoon or eve
without a snarl
or bark
(at least a hostile one) . . .
I do mark though
they still
tote their own bones
unready yet to share
their cartilagenous sustenance.
It's doggone encouraging though!

So
small wonder
one sooty city night of late
scarceely could I
aye my naying eyes
seeing this very canine duo
cross the boulevard
'thip to haunch'
in peaceful dogologue,
their concerted goal
the selfsame crossway lamppole
that lights the farther side . . .
I note
of late too
they've taken to visiting
each other's yards, porches,
pens even . . .

CLARENCE AMANN