

54. *Barcelona: Scrawl**First Edition*

Renunciation is not enough. You must act.
Yet action mustn't dominate you. In the heart of action,
you must remain free from all attachment.

They told me to take a street-car named Desire,
and then transfer to one called Cemeteries
and ride six blocks and get off at—Elysian Fields!

Color added
for ease in
comparison.

THOSE moments when you held me late that night
in my lone yearning bed I now recall,
when in us trust and sleep could reunite,
as now they stir to splice in this strange scrawl.
How Gaudi willed the world a field of faith,
so my surprise rose then from your warm clutch;
his ground made God appear; but I your wraith
these lines outline in merest hint, a touch.

You agonize and call me Krishna; walk
three times Las Ramblas and decide to yield
to rouge, or pride in not — your choice, such talk,
such sin, such vision of the battlefield!

Desire's ground and lineaments, aged, feint,
make bold these loyal letters you still paint.

The EPIGRAPH is a magnificent translation from Peter Brook's production of the Hindu epic, the *Mahabharata*, of which the *Bhagavad Gita* is the most famous scripture, and in which *Krishna* is the god who advises Arjuna on entering the *field of battle*. The second is from the Tennessee Williams 1947 play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Act 1. *Gaudi* was the originating architect of Sagrada Familia church, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in *Barcelona*. Gaudi started work on it in 1883; he died in 1926 with less than a quarter of the church completed; construction is continuing; completion has been estimated for around one hundred years after his death. Theologian Paul Tillich called God the *ground* of being; see his 1951 *Systematic Theology*, p238, vol 1, Part II, II, B.3a. A rough physical analogy would be the Higgs *field* which gives mass to fermions. *Las Ramblas* is a district in Barcelona famous for many delights and temptations. *Rouge* is a synecdoche for cosmetics; in the context of Las Ramblas, it suggests prostitution. *Feint/faint*: feint means sham; faint means faded, timorous, unfounded, or a swoon.

54. *Barcelona: Scrawl**Second Edition*

Renunciation is not enough. You must act.
Yet action mustn't dominate you. In the heart of action,
you must remain free from all attachment.

They told me to take a street-car named Desire, . . .
and ride six blocks and get off at—Elysian Fields!

Desire actually started across the street . . .
to hear what Love might have to say.

YOU agonize and call me Krishna; walk
three times Las Ramblas. And decide to yield
to rouge. Or pride in not. You choose. Such talk,
such sin, such vision of the battlefield!

Then humble when you held me late that night
in my pure yearning bed I now recall,
when in us trust and sleep could reunite,
now rounded rest, fields feint in this traced scrawl:

Like Gaudi's spires, this troth erects your touch
above the ground, though of the ground, the field
of faith. I quivered in your sky-filled clutch
and wondered how it happened you were healed.

O Fields of Being, O Grounds of Praise,
O Arrows of Desire, make dance each phrase.

The EPIGRAPH is from Peter Brook's production of the Hindu epic, the *Mahabharata*, of which the *Bhagavad Gita* is the famous scripture in which *Krishna* as god advises Arjuna entering the *field of battle*. E2: from the Tennessee Williams 1947 play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Act 1. E3: from James Baldwin's 1983? "Guilt, Desire, and Love." *Gaudi* designed Sagrada Familia basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in *Barcelona*. Under construction since 1882, the spires were, I found in 1994, terrifying to ascend. Theologian Paul Tillich called God the *ground* of being; see his 1951 *Systematic Theology*, v1, p238. A remote physical analogy is the Higgs *field* which gives mass to electrons, protons, and other particles. *Las Ramblas* is a Barcelona district of temptations where *rouge* cosmetics suggests prostitution. *Feint/faint*: feint means sham; faint means faded, timorous, unfounded, or a swoon. *Sin*: In Puccini's *La fanciulla del West*, Minnie declares *una suprema verità d'amore: fratelli, non v'è al mondo peccatore cui non s'apra una via di redenzione!* — "a supreme truth of love: brothers, there is no sinner in the world to whom a path of redemption does not open!" Psalm 51:7. *Quiver* is a pun. *Arrows of Desire*: from the Preface to William Blake's 1804 *Milton*, often called "Jerusalem," sung as a patriotic hymn written in 1916 by Anglican Hubert Parry. Also think of the arrow in Bernini's *St Teresa*. Σ Q1 Q2 Q3 C field.