

For Joe C & Cathy V on the Occasion of their Wedding

Oh the heart is heaven but the mind is hell. - Tom Waits

Here in Olympia we celebrate the holy
wedded procession of two outstanding
mammals. Two who take this first step
today, becoming one with one another.

& the mind as hell'd focus on strewn socks,
dishwasher full of clean dishes for three long
days, again the dirty toilet. Psychic hurdles
on the road to wedded bliss. The heart

as marriage heaven remembers birthdays
& Valentine's Days with something more
than roadside roses, something more
than what a few mouse clicks'd deliver.

The heart as heaven loves the little boy
still in him, the little girl in her who got
beat up & bruised into the person who stands
before you now. Who wants as much as air

partnership in every sense, the birthright of
any mammal. Even in nature some species
are blessed enough to find *one* who can lift the other
out of mind as hell & other comfortable diversions.

So drink up this day, this vision of her, Joe,
of him, Cathy. Don't insist on love, live it & the
best part of her will respond, of him. No one

knows how any procession of mammals ends,
but with your vows, that force behind every
living thing now works to rig the universe
in your favor. A sacred place, where the veil
of soul-making is now what you two
make together.

Paul Nelson
4.5.14