RELIGION

I've been all over this land
searching for the unattainable
I've sailed all the oceans
scoured the crevices
of every continent
looking for the unachievable
I've spent more time than I had
more strength than I had left
trying to replicate
to equivocate
to reverberate
I have not found the means

No altar have I discovered
upon which to kneel
no temple where I might finally
shatter the frail glass of my soul
cathedrals of light have eluded me
stairways to the heavens
I've found locked like subway gates
after midnight

I am handfasted like a Pagan
standing silenced as a sentenced monk
as unforgiven as Judas
as misunderstood as Joan of Arc
I've immersed my words in séance
breathed my life in the air of the shaman
folded my hands in Eastern meditation
sat in stained glass silent prayer
I've begged forgiveness from somber statues
given my heart to the sea in sacrificial rite
I've seen the blood flow in the jungles
where they hang their gods from trees

This penetrating fantasy
that escapes me
originated somewhere
deep behind your eyes
I've seen it
walk by in shadows
heard it falling like rain
on tin rooftops
even in the sleep of the dead
I dream

Still I cannot feel

though I’m believed to be
still alive
still at large
my soul still missing
kidnapped by a memory

out there in the vastness
of the mysteries of the world
I’ve never found
what exists in you
my essence captured
by your slightest glance
my blood flows warm
within the walls of your heart

and our love
speaks
through us
like religion

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