

SAILING IN BIG BASIN (7/29/85)

Dead leaves sail and drift down
to the ground
Floating upon a mystical sea,
Before my eyes watching.

Some who dare to say
That leaves just fall,
Treat the air
As though it weren't really there.

AUTUMN'S EVOLUTIONARY LESSON (1985)

So many spiders' silky webs
Drifting high above rocky chasms
 between Yosemite domes.
Riding the silent tide of
 pristine mountain air

Like rays of silver flax woven
To adorn the perfect pose
 of an Autumn's sonata

How many spiders gave their homes
To share this spectacle,
And, how many lives will be sacrificed
 for a greater human illusion:

That our autumn can be made eternal
Through raging wars, prudently engaged,
To blot out the truth of this historic moment.

ODE TO COLONEL REDL

(In training to be a scum bag)

You're on your way up, they said,
When they kicked me in groin.
It'll only hurt a little while.
After the pain you'll understand the need
To revise your ideals a bit.

Of course, it takes a man to accept
that kick without crying.
To feel that cramp, deep in the gut
--to gasp and yet to be proud--.

You've proved you are as loyal as a chief, they said.
You've earned it.

We'll watch, of course,
and you must file all your reports.
But not to worry,
You're one of us now!

Then they issued me pen, badge
and grappling hook.
At first I thought: Do I deserve such honor, trust?
Later I looked back in fear.
I saw no one there.
Heard only voices of those whom I had neutralized and betrayed.

Now it was too late to reverse the weight
they had exacted for personal loyalty.
Their noose snapped the hollow cord in my spine
it severed my brain..

yet they could not
Finally,
strike my will.

For I refused to graduate.

(based on the film: Colonel Redl, starring Claus Maria Brandauer
in the trilogy about the rise of fascism)