

Visit to the City

Bruce Bagnell

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Visit to the City

the city is spread out in front of the fireplace,
the soldiers frozen stiff, surrounding the citizens,
fire trucks and rocket ships scattered around
while a bear sits atop a skyscraper—too large—
the story is hidden,
it will take the child to explain the illogic of it,
that mixture of fantasy-magic not yet scoured out
by caustic adult soaps,
which is why I always use baby shampoo:
it is gentle on the mind, I say to the guy on the train,
and he looks at me before changing his seat;
obviously he is not a poet.

-Bruce Bagnell
Berkeley, CA