

In Memoriam

Edward W. Said 1935-2003

you dispensed your wealth
from a wooden soapbox
yet must now forgive even this:
my jaundiced paradigm
old-fashioned, tainted with
the grime
of power. ignorance
is power.

what patience and moral courage
modest, exquisite, magisterial
as if a purple robe which fell
in velvet folds, each pleat
another mystery exposing one more
travesty of tyranny, shortcut
alibis and hollow pageantry
of so-called culture:

the easy dishonesties
with which life intrudes

“a beginning is different from an origin”

dissident before you were old

a text yourself: ardent and desperate

shaped by circumstances unimaginable

but human and real/of this world

hopeful to the end

dissent / dissent

though death is the truth

of nature and life

and death always intrudes

ayşe lahur kirtunç / october 21, 2003