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## Poems

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### **Comments**

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## Poems

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### The Desire to Know

1.

Why was Martin Heidegger an anti-Semite? More precisely: what functions did anti-Semitism serve in the structure of his values? The possibility of knowing threatens me.

Knowledge is in some ways like death: final, real, without epilogue. We live around it, the way we live around death. I do, rather. So: it creates a community, participation in which ensures that there will be no shared emotions.

The atmosphere of knowing regulates ways of relating. Finitude is its sun.

*Aude sapere*—dare to use discernment. I misunderstand this as: dare to know. Dare to be equal to what you know. At what point did this become something for me to accomplish?

2.

When I left my childhood home and moved to Berkeley to study I immersed myself in Heidegger's *Being and Time*. (I couldn't read German.) As I understood the work then, being is a matter of existential crises and preoccupations, and time is a calming force.

An environment steadies one differently than time does.

Thinking need not separate a body from its environment.

To know one's environment. For this to have meaning, perhaps one has to say something more specific, like: to know one's body's environment. An interminable process, which is to say that it is contextualized by thinking.

## The Wooden Floor

1.

In a film

The ocean darkens behind the window

But writing for oneself

How do you do it

Who answers

By becoming another

2.

Sonnet.

How do you waste water.

When Lake Mead is empty

My desert

Places.

In the afternoon

I walked past a boy sitting with a Literature textbook  
on a café wall.

Surface.

*Möglichkeit.*

My recipe is

To care

Dog barks in the neighborhood

The day has not ended

3.

*Cuando pienso en ti  
Varias cosas pasan*

*Varias cosas pasan  
En el otoño ligero*

*La lluvia de tu ciudad  
Donde nadan los niños  
En las calles como si fueran  
Libres*

*Hablemos de lo escrito ya*

*Su paciencia  
Parece  
Papel también*

*Juegos que jugaban  
Por humo*

*The clerk says—  
Slowly surviving*