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# Two Poems

John Delaney

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# *Two Poems*

JOHN DELANEY

E

i.

Latin for 'out of,' 'from,'  
E, as prefix, serves words  
An eviction notice:  
It throws the tenant meaning out  
Of its environment, uproots  
Sense from its common ground.

ii.

E makes a man of H,  
Gives M a sense of self,  
Teaches R to sing;  
With B, it forms a state,  
With W, a society.

iii.

Like a Dale Carnegie speaker  
Whose topics include "Longevity,"  
"The Cure for Impotence,"  
And "A Way to Heal Old Wounds,"  
This vitamin builds confidence  
In the body's industry.

iv.

Vision's Zeus,  
Enthroned on a pyramid.  
Eyes must honor him first  
If they hope to be blessed  
With greater powers of sight.  
Those who refuse are blind.

v.

The eccentric vowel of split personality:  
In public, at the heart of things,  
A politician who silences  
His opposition with his influence;  
In private, at his dead end,  
A deafmute in whose presence  
Visitors raise their voices.

vi.

Enigmatic,  
E = mc<sup>2</sup>.

## Spider Plant

Years' patronage from your watering can  
Created a green foliage fountain  
Cascading the whole length of our window.  
One sensed the irony, but couldn't show  
How frustration of the plant's groping roots,  
Constricted into rounds by porcelain,  
Was the spring for the babbling overflow  
Of its sharp-tongued leaves and flagging offshoots.  
The baby plants, suspended parachutes,  
Slowly approached, but never hit, the ground.

At last, of course, the plant began to die.  
Breaking the flowerpot open, we found  
A spiralling spaghetti of roots wound  
As tight as the noose of a rope.  
And yet, we knew already why  
The mind's cramped network spurs outgrowths of hope,  
Though they may never get a chance  
To sprout on land.

Wife,

We grow potbound  
In this limited life:  
But death transplants.