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Power and Pain: Dickinson's Approach to the Sublime

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Power and Pain: Dickinson's Approach to the Sublime

Fascicle 40

Primary poem

A nearness to Tremendousness—
An Agony procures—
Affliction ranges Boundlessness—
Vicinity to Laws

Contentment's quiet suburb—
Affliction cannot stay
In Acres—Its Location
Is Illocality—

Connections within the same sheet

"Unto Me?" I do not know you—
Where may be your House?

"I am Jesus—Late of Judea—
Now—of Paradise"—

Wagons—have you—to convey me?
This is far from Thence—

"Arms of Mine—sufficient Phaeton—
Trust Omnipotence"—

I am spotted—"I am Pardon"—
I am small—"The Least
Is esteemed in Heaven the
Chiefest—
Occupy my House"—

Relationships throughout the fascicle

Had I not This, or This, I said,
Appealing to Myself,
In moment of prosperity –
Inadequate – were Life –

“Thou hast not Me, nor Me” – it said,
In moment of Reverse –
“And yet Thou art **industrious** –
No need – had’st Thou – of us –”?

My need – was all I had – I said
The need did not reduce –
Because the food – exterminate –
The **hunger** – does not cease –

But diligence – is sharper –
Proportioned to the chance –
To feed upon the Retrograde –
Enfeebles – the Advance –



Themes of Power

Fascicle Forty

Sheet Two

"A nearness to Tremendousness"

Works Cited

McIntosh, James. *Nimble Believing: Dickinson and the Unknown*. U of Michigan P, 2000.

Pollak, Vivian and Marianne Nobel. "Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886: A Brief Biography." A *Historical Guide to Emily Dickinson*, edited by Vivian R. Pollak, Oxford U P, 2004, pp. 13-63.