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## Dr. Soft on Marriage

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## DR. SOFT ON MARRIAGE

Your life depends on it.

\*

It troubles the doctor less  
that women he knows and loves  
and is married to  
have been married before  
than that  
priority  
they put  
on marriage  
where, for the doctor,  
marriage is the most immediate  
fact in his life  
that it's an institution  
he feels in his bones  
that  
any  
incapacity  
for marriage  
to *anything*  
is cause for concern  
for the doctor  
is Dr. Soft  
Dr. Soft on marriage.

\*

The man the doctor is thinking of is **Paul Blackburn**  
and the city is New York  
and the gentleness  
of someone  
the gentleness  
how, what there was, was shared  
that it was manly  
that there were no lies  
that the first writer he knew  
capable of love in this way  
was **this man**.

•

Drano in the kitchen sink  
that lye never works  
to unclear anything  
but is of use  
solely  
as a precaution

\*

that if it's a confession  
the doctor is reading  
and a piece of literature  
that purports or pretends or appears  
to come out of that confessional  
the doctor's choice  
is for the former  
and to hell with the other.

\*

Similarly, regarding epigraphs  
quotes "from my sister's dentist"  
and elsewhere  
how nothing published in the last 75 years  
has been equal to its own epigraph.

\*

More marvelous than anything I can imagine:  
being read. Anyone  
reading  
any one word  
of this.