

The Clearing

Stanton Harris Hall

“Quantum physics makes the seemingly preposterous claim (actually more than a claim, since it has been upheld in countless experiments) that there is no ‘is’ until an observer makes an observation.” –Jeffrey M. Schwartz and Sharon Begley, The Mind and The Brain (New York: ReganBooks/HarperCollins, 2002), 263.

“Physical events enter our awareness as reality only when addressed with a specific question.” –Stanton Harris Hall

Spring again.
The browns, the ochre,
the brittle death of fall and winter
recast in transcendent greens—
 vibrant, transparent, resurgent.

The first rays of morning sun
illuminate the canopy of this New England forest
 beech, sugar maple, and hickory,
transforming the verdant ceiling
into a vision of Monet’s water lilies floating overhead.

The boy Joseph slips quietly out the door
and into the sunrise
moving quickly through the hayfield
to the small forest clearing
he knew so well.

Kneeling,
the question
in his heart takes voice,
a simple question
but one of quantum significance,

and the answer unfolds—
first in darkness
and then—
in a brilliance
“above the brightness of the sun.”

No mountain, no cloud,
no still small voice,
simply brilliance.
The ultimate allegory of renewal,
the Father, the Son, the answer,
all clothed in light.