

5.9 The Dialectic (according to Plato) of Candle-light (2003)

Observing thy dancing stillness, constant size, unwavering vigilance,
Thy great and disproportioned gift, the beauty of thy vulnerable innocence,
I seek to understand what makes thee be, and what conditions regulate
Thy being, how we depend on thee and thou from us, and therefore say:

If thou art
Then for thyself:
what follows is
thou well dost marry fire and air and earth,
what follows not is
that thou movst thyself,
what follows and does not is
thou art a fragile power.

And for those around thee:
what follows is
that thou illumin'st us,
what follows not is
we are burned thereby,
what follows and does not is
our love and thine reciprocate.

But if art not
Then for thyself:
what follows is
thou servst thine office,
what follows not is
that thou art a dead thing,
what follows and does not is
thou hast forgot thine elements.

And for those around thee:
What follows is
thy light from us withdrawn,
what follows not is
thou liv'st in memory only not desire,
what follows and does not is
Light and life are one in thee.

Harnham Farm – March 2003.

The method of reasoning employed by the dialectic of Plato, was invented by the Eleatic Zeno, disciple of Parmenides, and is as follows Two hypotheses being laid down, viz. if a thing is, and if it is not, each of these may be tripled, by considering in each what happens, what does not happen, what happens and at the same time does not happen, so that six cases will be the result.