

54. *Barcelona: Scrawl*

Renunciation is not enough. You must act.
 Yet action mustn't dominate you. In the heart of action,
 you must remain free from all attachment.

They told me to take a street-car named Desire, . . .
 and ride six blocks and get off at—Elysian Fields!

Desire actually started across the street . . .
 to hear what Love might have to say.

You agonize and call me Krishna; walk
 three times Las Ramblas and decide to yield
 to rouge — or pride in not. You choose. Such talk,
 such sin, such vision of the battlefield!

Then humble when you held me late that night
 in my pure yearning bed I now recall,
 when in us trust and sleep could reunite,
 now rounded rest, fields feint in this traced scrawl:

Like Gaudí's spires, this troth erects your touch
 above the ground, though *of* the ground, the field
 of faith. I quivered in your sky-filled clutch
 and wondered how it happened you were healed.

O Fields of Being, O Grounds of Praise,
 O Arrows of Desire, make dance each phrase.

The EPIGRAPH is from Peter Brook's production of the Hindu epic, the *Mahabharata*, of which the *Bhagavad Gita* is the famous scripture in which **Krishna** as god advises Arjuna entering the **field of battle**. **E2**: from the Tennessee Williams 1947 play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Act 1. **E3**: from James Baldwin's 1983? "Guilt, Desire, and Love." **Gaudí** designed Sagrada Família basilica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in **Barcelona**. Under construction since 1882, the spires were, I found in 1994, terrifying to ascend. Theologian Paul Tillich called God the **ground of being**; see his 1951 *Systematic Theology*, v1, p238. A remote physical analogy is the Higgs **field** which gives mass to electrons, protons, and other particles. **Las Ramblas** is a Barcelona district of temptations where **rouge** cosmetics suggests prostitution. **Feint/faint**: feint means sham; faint means faded, timorous, unfounded, or a swoon. **Sin**: In Puccini's *La fanciulla del West*, Minnie declares *una suprema verità d'amore: fratelli, non v'è al mondo peccatore cui non s'apra una via di redenzione!* — "a supreme truth of love: brothers, there is no sinner in the world to whom a path of redemption does not open!" Psalm 51:7. **Quiver** is a pun. **Arrows of Desire**: from the Preface to William Blake's 1804 *Milton*, often called "Jerusalem," sung as a patriotic hymn written in 1916 by Anglican Hubert Parry. Also think of the arrow in Bernini's *St Teresa*. Σ Q1 Q2 Q3 C field.