

The Word

KINGDOM

in the Word

KINGDOM

Noah Eli Gordon

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The Word *Kingdom* in the Word Kingdom
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FIRST EDITION

FOR EXPRESSION

*Sing a song of utterance. I mutter to you.
Sing a song of expression.*

—Gertrude Stein

For the feel
in my palm
of an apple
fresh from
the market
Against the
viscous
transparent skin
of marketing

For the condition
of air
Against air
conditioning

For the brightness
of the room made
brighter by an
illuminating act
of the imagination
Against ingredients
and blueprints

For the continued sweetness
of chilled plums
Against plumage

Against the rifles
the aggressors
of elegant discourse
display as flags
For riffing elegantly
through discourse
to display
aggression flagging

For the curve
of any Adonis's cock
Against a lecture
on how to cup
the sack while stroking

For the renewal
of sunsets and moons
seasons tiny saplings
soups of all kinds
Against novelty
stirring in the wrong direction

For patronage
Against patrons

For music
Against museums

For the body
in its folds
and dignities
Against collapsing
garment factories

For love
Against labels

For workers
Against force

For the mask's respect
of the contours
of the human face
Against hanging it
on a wall
backwards

For paintings
Against frames

For pleasure
Against its conscription
to a purely cerebral
paradise

For standing
however
you see fit
Against posturing

For buildings
Against scaffolding

For the suit
Against the numbers

For the public
Against the publicist

For the sudden sharp beauty
of seeing anew
again
the same
old world
Against the art
of money
the artifact

the art of facts
and administration

For water
that rises and falls
the earth
those on it
Against the pull
of the village
explainer

For weather
Against forecasts

For the cow
Against the brand

For Stein and Césaire
Vallejo
Sappho Rimbaud
Against Cage and Warhol
Google
Apple
Monsanto

For the capacity
to imagine
your nakedness

Against endless images
of it

For the thread
Against the mill

For the attendant enchantment
of a phrase
tuned
and trued
Against taking attendance

For enchantment
in general
Against the generals
of entrenched
imagination

For the clit
Against the clock

For poles and zones
Against polling and zoning

For plasticity
Against plastic

For the poets
grown old
before us
Against their mistaking
admiration
for eros

For a wooden door
painted green
impervious
to weather
Against whether
or not
one has
to open it

For options
Against operators

For photographs
of flowers
all over the place
Against poems
where people
aim telephoto lenses
at one another

For pushing
the last bits
of daylight
through
the door locks
Against polishing
your crown
behind the curtains

For a girl
floating
for a few seconds
across
the parking lot
Against what's only
an ordinary
skateboard
underneath her

For the desire
to walk around
and around the block
like a man who takes
pleasure
in circling something
he knows he won't

apply for because
he's certain he'd get it
Against applications

For another poem
textured
with the sky
night
stars
and the sun
Against its textual history

For the messianic
and
Against the messianic
and
For the freedom to be so
and
Against the fastidiousness not to

About the Author

Noah Eli Gordon was born in Cleveland, OH, in 1975, and grew up there and in South Florida, then moved to Boston where he sold jewelry from a cart for several years while attending Bunker Hill Community College, followed by UMass-Amherst, eventually graduating from their Program for Poets & Writers, before moving west and settling in Denver, CO.

His recent books include *The Year of the Rooster* (Ahsahta Press, 2013), *The Source* (Futurepoem Books, 2011), and *Novel Pictorial Noise* (Harper Perennial, 2007), which was selected by John Ashbery for the National Poetry Series and subsequently chosen for the San Francisco State Poetry Center Book Award. His work has appeared in numerous anthologies, including *The Volta Book of Poets* (Sidebrow, 2014), *The Force of What's Possible: Writers on Accessibility & the Avant-Garde* (Nightboat Books, 2014), *Villanelles* (Everyman's Library, 2012), *Postmodern American Poetry: A Norton Anthology 2nd Edition* (W.W. Norton, 2012), *A Broken Thing: Poets on the Line* (University of Iowa Press, 2011), *Against Expression: An Anthology of Conceptual Writing* (Northwestern University Press, 2011), and *Poets on Teaching* (University of Iowa Press, 2010), and was short-listed in *The 2010 Best American Nonrequired Reading*.

An advocate of small press culture, he co-founded (with Joshua Marie Wilkinson) Letter Machine Editions, penned a column for five years on chapbooks for *Rain Taxi: Review of Books*, ran Braincase Press, was Head Reviews editor for *The Volta*, co-founded the little magazine *Baffling Combustions*, and has published numerous reviews, interviews, and critical and journalistic writing. Currently, he teaches courses on poetry, poetics, publishing, and nonfiction for the MFA program in creative writing at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he directs Subito Press.