

## Charitable Trust

Give  
Giving kills time  
Pause giving  
Like you're too important for it  
Like if this  
Is now a renegotiation  
Then you'd prefer to suture up  
Last year's money bags  
And make everyone walk to the well

Or share  
Sharing strengthens the teeth  
Hunters are quick to say  
Their relationship with their dogs  
Is never mere ownership  
Instead the hounds  
Become part of the family  
"We lowered him down with a golden chain  
And every link we called his name"  
Goes the song  
About Old Blue  
That famous old  
Dead dog

## If I Get Taken Away or Like Snatched

“I saw you called me yesterday  
but I was talking to that roofer.  
I tried calling you back  
but I got your office  
and, I don’t know, your office  
thinks you’re a wrong number.  
I’ll be home tomorrow.  
Thank you.”

On the kitchen counter I find a potato with a Post-it note  
addressed to what would have to be (she lives alone) herself:  
“More potatoes in the garage.” The “garage” underlined.  
She offers to make me rice pudding, a ploy to use up a bowl  
of cooked rice I’ve seen on the refrigerator’s bottom shelf.

I don’t answer, so no one does.

I put on “Strong Wind Through a Desert Willow.”

“Extreme Rain” layered over “Diesel Generator.”

## A Child to the State

The way to do history  
Is not to care about it  
Whatever you care for you diminish  
Facts remain the same, changing with the day  
While what is true of one repeats  
By turning true of another  
Everywhere the sound of crying  
Neither immediate nor interesting  
Unlike you, with those low goals  
You're not just going to overflow toward  
You've got to list the ambitious pains  
Persevere through the doubt you watch  
Take inventive forms like clouds  
Owing the world a form

## Heel of My Hand

You are  
as attentive  
with me  
as a friend  
patiently  
remove  
first your left  
then right  
earphone  
each time  
my lips  
part

Keeping  
this attention  
is key to  
getting through  
I think  
or everyone  
thinks (my  
thoughts just  
a bristle from  
their brush)

You recommend  
a delay in  
investigation  
(you say  
justice

is always  
best when  
delayed)  
as you press  
the pen  
to the  
paper's most  
unforgiving  
places

You are  
to me  
a big "how"  
(like no one  
—they say—  
asks a billionaire  
why they made  
2 billion dollars  
they just ask  
how)

Oh how I  
used to think  
I needed  
someone to  
hold my hands  
to the piano  
at the bar  
that everyone  
would rather  
no one played

How I used  
to want more  
clarifications  
and how I used  
to want (I  
cannot tell  
you how  
desperately  
I wanted)  
to call them  
(the wants)  
a surcharge

on the price  
of admitting  
to preference  
for I preferred  
you above  
others  
clownish  
though it  
made  
me seem