

THE NUMBER

IF IT EXISTED

other than as a scattered hallucination of agony

IF IT BEGAN AND IF IT CEASED

welling up though denied and confined when visible

at last

by some profusion spilled in scarcity

IF IT CALCULATED

evidence of the sum however small

IF IT ILLUMINATED

CHANCE

Falls

the feather

rhythmic suspense of the sinister

to bury itself

in natal foam

where its delirium once leapt to a summit

bleached

by the identical neutrality of the abyss