

# Two Poems

BY CHARLES BERNSTEIN

every lake has a house  
& every house has a stove  
& every stove has a pot  
& every pot has a lid  
& every lid has a handle  
& every handle has a stem  
& every stem has an edge  
& every edge has a lining  
& every lining has a margin  
& every margin has a slit  
& every slit has a slope  
& every slope has a sum  
& every sum has a factor  
& every factor has a face  
& every face has a thought  
& every thought has a trap  
& every trap has a door  
& every door has a frame  
& every frame has a roof  
& every roof has a house  
& every house has a lake

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## Let's Just Say

Let's just say that every time you fall you never hit the ground  
Let's just say that when the day ends the night refuses to come  
Let's just say that if all else fails you at least you can count on that  
Let's just say that a bird in the fist is better than a bird and a foot  
Let's just say that the scarlet ambrosia of your innermost longing is  
the nectar of a god who never chooses to visit  
Let's just say that if chance accords possibilities, melancholy  
postpones insomnia  
Let's just say that sleep is the darker side of dreams  
Let's just say that sometimes a rose is just a read flower  
Let's just say that every step forward is also a step nowhere  
Let's just say that the thirst for knowledge can only be quenched if one  
learns how to remain hungry  
Let's just say that green is always a reflection of the idea of green  
Let's just say that I encounter myself not in the mirror but in the manure  
Let's just say that each door leads to another door  
Let's just say that we think it before we see it or better we see it as we think it  
Let's just say that a stone's throw might be a world away  
Let's just say that love is neither here nor there  
Let's just say that the girl is the mother of the woman  
Let's just say that without disorder there can be no harmony  
Let's just say that the aim is not to win but not to lose too bad  
Let's just say that a knife in the back is better than a knife in the heart  
Let's just say that between sleep and dreams is the reality behind reality  
Let's just say that I am very weak and want to take a bath  
Let's just say that the truth is somewhere between us  
Let's just say that the top of a tower is not a good place to hide  
Let's just say that mankind suffers its language  
Let's just say that a bird cannot always be in flight  
Let's just say that we're not far from where we would have been  
if we had lived better lives  
Let's just say that pretty ugly is an aspiring oxymoron  
Let's just say that if the sun is a rock burning in space then  
the earth is a shard hurtling from its designation  
Let's just say that little is gained when nothing is lost  
Let's just say that the lie of the mind is the light of perception