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Potential

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Potential

by Stephanie Ladroga

Staircases go

neither up nor down but remain

open-ended- [no meaning applied until a foot in one direction
falls upon the first stair].

Ability to transcend barriers of

the human form (do you want to do you want to do you need to cross
them

to find
yourself?)

forces certainty into minds that are made to be uncertain

breaking down loneliness

in favor of the promise at the top | bottom

where he's waiting with (parody) solidarity and truth.

[(replace love with his noise and color and certainty)-
dichotomies where none should be].

why do we punish questions with answers?

afraid to admire the way the air breathes?

(it's okay to sit in silence and stare at white walls

Without painting them.)

he holds you in the palm of his numbered (eyes)

whispering beauty but screaming out Names.

need him-

(and that would be defeat)

let him-

(and that would be surrender)

believe him-

(and that would be submission)

and you could kill him-

but that would be bad manners.