Poems

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The Desire to Know

1.
Why was Martin Heidegger an anti-Semite? More precisely: what functions did anti-Semitism serve in the structure of his values? The possibility of knowing threatens me.

Knowledge is in some ways like death: final, real, without epilogue. We live around it, the way we live around death. I do, rather. So: it creates a community, participation in which ensures that there will be no shared emotions.

The atmosphere of knowing regulates ways of relating. Finitude is its sun.

Aude sapere—dare to use discernment. I misunderstand this as: dare to know. Dare to be equal to what you know. At what point did this become something for me to accomplish?

2.
When I left my childhood home and moved to Berkeley to study I immersed myself in Heidegger's *Being and Time*. (I couldn't read German.) As I understood the work then, being is a matter of existential crises and preoccupations, and time is a calming force.

An environment steadies one differently than time does.

Thinking need not separate a body from its environment.

To know one's environment. For this to have meaning, perhaps one has to say something more specific, like: to know one's body's environment. An interminable process, which is to say that it is contextualized by thinking.

The Wooden Floor

1.
In a film
The ocean darkens behind the window

But writing for oneself
How do you do it

Who answers

By becoming another

2.
Sonnet.

How do you waste water.

When Lake Mead is empty
My desert
Places.

In the afternoon
I walked past a boy sitting with a Literature textbook
on a café wall.

Surface.
Möglichkeit.

My recipe is
To care

Dog barks in the neighborhood
The day has not ended

3.
Cuando pienso en ti
Varias cosas pasan

Varias cosas pasan
En el otoño ligero

La lluvia de tu ciudad
Donde nadan los niños
En las calles como si fueran
Libres

Hablemos de lo escrito ya

Su paciencia
Parece
Papel también

Juegos que jugaban
Por humo

The clerk says—
Slowly surviving