

1948

Cynic

Aaron Kustin

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VANISHING EDEN

No window here. How does the vision start?
 Out of the irised eye and haunted heart.
 The darkness falls apart.

The frightened forest is ajar.
 The jungle ejects the jaguar.
 Step no nearer; tremble where you are.

Bat still is bat with winking wing;
 the slinking cat is still a thing.
 Dissolving birds have ceased to sing.

And all existence, long long traced,
 is mired and muted and displaced;
 form fails and substance is erased.

And the banished into air are banished.
 The ear strains and the eye is famished.
 See: nothing. Eden is void and vanished.

HERMAN SALINGER

CYNIC

listen!
 he listened, wept, kept
 silent to hear it

wait!
 he waited, watched for it,
 hoped for it,
 and when it came
 . . . when it came:
 refused it

it was not what he wanted
 it was not it at all.

AARON KASTIN