

## Regarding Gardens

Jardin

garden

gendarme

guarded

regarded

disregarded

enclosed

foreclosed

What is a garden?

Take Occam's Razor to the beds,  
trim the stems, the blooms, the shrubs, the branches, fruits,  
get down among the roots.

What's left?

When this ball of dust began to coalesce,  
gradually gardened by gravity,  
was that the first step?  
Order out of cosmic mess?

What do you get out of this,  
Elizabeth?

Is it more, or less, than you put into it?

Is it because we were thrown out?  
We can't keep still in the womb,  
we couldn't stay put in Eden:  
something about a sanctuary drives us out.

An urge to seed our own Creation,  
lay out our entrances and exits.

You master nature but seven of your eleven  
tenderest buds  
were nipped off by frost.

The Melancholy Way can be assuaged  
by an Orangery.  
Graft Italian Sun to English stem,  
let Tuscan shadows whisper  
in the Wilderness.

Umbrageous

Bird cages

You gave *two shillings and sixpence*  
*to ye Boy that brought ye Nest of Nightingales*

then feathered your nest  
with the freshest and best  
for the great and the good.

Watch your tongue,  
seal your knots,  
tend your heart with citriculture  
but be wise enough  
to add a pinch of sugar.

Stone pineapples will grow in time,  
the leaden heads of upstart leaders dare to stare down  
Father Thames.

Who do you let in?  
Who do you keep out?

Wrap yourself in tarp before the winter comes.