

Theft

Blind creature, open-eyed but visionless;
of sensibility dull, your memory
trained to search the filing cabinet
and the minute book for facts beyond recall,
you know not how to drink such scenery
in quiet, unhurried, meditative mood.
Pressured, you clamber anxious to your car,
determined that no moment shall be lost
in noting all the tourist brochure spots
of which a man must talk to justify expense.

The dust that is your car moves fast
from gorge to gorge, from jagged range to range.
At each locale, the doors fly wide, extrude
the insect-shapes who, frantic, scamper up
the nearest knoll or vantage point. Shutters
click. With stolen beauty-fragments hidden
safe within the camera's guilty dark,
you scramble to your car as if afraid
earth's majesty may grip you firm against
your will. In sacrilege, all ignorant,
you scurry to your home, mind barren yet,
indifferent to the truth of creativity.

Unconscious of real talent, you assume
the role of artist, flashing stolen scenes
upon a wall, as if the work were yours.
So cheaply does a simple button pressed
usurp the skill of painter's hand and eye.

And while you gaped, profane, unsanctified,
invading, boots and all, the nave of God,
you crushed a tiny wild flower (crucified)
where clumsily, unfeelingly, you trod.

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About Dr Barry Chant

Barry Chant is Senior Pastor of the Wesley International Congregation in Sydney, Australia. He is a regular speaker at church services, seminars, conferences and conventions. Hundreds of thousands of his books have been sold around the world. He has degrees in arts, theology and ministry, a diploma in education and a PhD in history. He was the initiator and former president of Tabor College, Australia.

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