Big City Speech

By W. S. Di Piero

Use me
Abuse me
   Turn wheels of fire
   on manhole hotheads

Sing me
Sour me
   Secrete dark matter's sheen
   on our smarting skin

Rise and shine
In puddle shallows
   under every Meryl Cheryl Caleb Syd
   somnambulists and sleepyheads

Wake us
Speak to us
   Bless what you've nurtured in your pits
   the rats voles roaches and all outlivers
   of your obscene ethic and politics

Crawl on us
Fall on us
   you elevations that break and vein
   down to sulfuric fiber-optic wrecks
   through drill-bit dirt to bedrock

Beat our brows
Flee our sorrows

   Sleep tight with your ultraviolets
   righteous mica and drainage seeps

   your gorgeous color-chart container ships
   and cab-top numbers squinting in the mist

Source: Poetry (June 2009)