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)