

A Reflection for Brokenness

The moment of transcendence occurs at the moment of brokenness.

As the walls of brick come crashing down, one by one
We peer into the terrifying void of darkness that seems to be
Immeasurable, uncontrollable, unfathomable.
Structure collapses and all words seem like endless clutter
Sinking into the quicksand below.

We return to the primordial flood
Before words, before structure, before meaning.
We return to the time before God said "Let there be light."
We float along the waters searching for dry ground
But none is in sight

It is here, in this bottomless void, this *tohu va-vohu*,
In the dark emptiness
We awaken with unuttered word
"All is vanity, the vanity of vanities"

However
It is from here.
That we begin to see again
We see because we do not look outward, but inward
We realize that we too are the wind, the sea, the void
We are surrounded and surround
We now feel embraced by the beauty and grandeur

From this realization, and from this place, everything is measured
The surge of feelings experienced within us is shared with the entire universe
And join with the ether of existence
The empty universe is filled with the same pathos
Everything is gathered, validated, and incorporated

It is a comfort.

-Rabbi Frederick L Klein