

## Fragments of a Poetic Journal

Tuesday June 5, 2001

27,000 ft Angel flying.  
 Destination Louisville  
 Filled with unspeakable  
 heaviness of joy  
 at this homecoming.

Wednesday June 6, 2001

Sitting here on a bench near the corner of Fourth and Walnut (except now it's called Muhammed Ali) in the Center of the Shopping District in Louisville (pronounced by locals as Loo-ville) where the people are still somehow walking about 'Shining Like The Sun.' Smells of humid southern heat of the not-so-early-but-not-got-going-yet morning. It's just after 10am. I've been wandering around for  $\frac{3}{4}$  an hour. People cutting along or ambling to work, now some standing outside buildings for final cigarette moment of contemplation before work in smoke-free air-conditioned shops or offices. Fed-Ex van pulls away giving me a clear view of the corner on which stands the Seelbach Hotel. Sparrow flits down before me and then back into the tree beneath whose bows I sit. Shoppers beginning to appear. Baggy shorts and baseball caps. Heart is full with just being here. Eyes brim with tears that not overflow.

Holy community standing  
 bench sitting  
 human touch of  
     nicotine fellowship.      spoken.      silent.  
    alone.      together.

Somewhere a bell tolls. A quarter after ten. A signal to move.

Monday June 11, 2001 Gethsemani

old monk enters abbey church  
     in sneakers  
 crosses himself.

14th June 2001. Thursday. Evening. About 9.30pm

### Father Louis' Grave

THE fireflies danced  
around your grave  
when I came at last  
to sit at your feet.

A stranger pilgrim  
unknown unconceived  
seeking your spirit  
not amongst the dead.

But in the heart  
of life-overflowing  
sunshine fecundity  
pulsing through Kentucky heat.

'Be what you are'  
you said. You said.  
wisdom draws forth  
heart question:

And what am I?  
Who am I?  
Walking this wilderness path  
open-eyed to vision behold.

Illusion beholding illusion  
Disappearing trick  
you are gone  
and I am too.

ANGUS STUART