

To the Angelbeast

Eduardo C. Corral

For Arthur Russell

All that glitters isn't music.

Once, hidden in tall grass,

I tossed fistfuls of dirt into the air: doe after doe of leaping.

You said it was nothing but a trick of the light. Gold curves. Gold scarves.

Am I not your animal?

You'd wait in the orchard for hours

to watch a deer

break from the shadows.

You said it was like lifting a cello

out of its black case

differences without opposition

Fred Moten

rain turns snow blue gray

and it reflects the carpet

as the grass shines under.

nothing without the sound

won't show me things

I need to hear you talking.

but I just see the flatness

of these little hills. they roll

not no trill no Jimmy Lyons

so I write Bill. I shoulda called.

I build the institutions but

for someone else's spacing

Reflection:

Honestly, for me personally, it was hard to really get a clear picture on what these two poems are trying to express precisely. Without relevant online sources regarding their meaning, I could only make inferences based on the author's background, field of study, and the sociocultural norm during the time that poems were written.

The first poem "To the Angelbeast" was written by Corral to show his respect to Arthur Russell, a cello player who never got widely recognized before his death. This was clear to me. However, the metaphors and symbolisms were hard to understand. The second poem "differences without opposition" is easier to understand. As the title and the background of the author suggest, the poem is about the suppression of African American and the mindset of internalizing discrimination among African-Americans throughout history. The difference, in my humble opinion, indicates the different treatment and social status between Whites and Blacks, and opposition means the actions that should be taken by African Americans in order to gain the justice. One of the most intriguing questions remained to me was what does Bill stand for? Is Bill a policymaker or someone who has the power to change the racial injustice in the States?