

Kay Ryan

from ELEPHANT ROCKS

Repetition

First the mind does something
to see if it can.
Then the mind does the same thing
because it can.
But there is mind left over:
the excited part.
This is the poison in repetition.
But it is a very weak poison
and no reason to forego
the deep abiding consolations
of repetition. The poison
may build up usefully,
as it built up in the Egyptians—
a preservative. What will ever
equal accretion's extravagance?
Take the grand conservative temples
to the golden Horus-headed pharaohs,
for instance.



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