



7-1-1987

Manifest

Virginia E. Baker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>

Recommended Citation

Baker, Virginia E. (1987) "Manifest," *BYU Studies Quarterly*: Vol. 27 : Iss. 3 , Article 21.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol27/iss3/21>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Manifest

I watched horizons for a sign,
 any sign to show that solid truth:
 a flash of light,
 an image dreamed,
 a visitation holy asked—
 not much.
 Not for a God,
 to show
 that solid beam
 to found the rest.

I cried

I need to know,

an echo

of former voices along
 some unremembered line;
 and strained my eyes to see
 more than heated fantasies
 within the fading clouds

—while you
 stood behind me, whispering
 beyond what could not be.
 I knew poets—*miglior fabro*—
 who had been denied that face before.

Why not me?

As I looked out on empty skies
 A gentler breeze than trumpet blasts
 called me to look in.

Had I turned
 and heard the voice
 behind the thunder,
 what then would I have seen,
 I wonder?

—Virginia E. Baker