



DAVID BRAZILL

HOLY
GHOST

CITY LIGHTS SPOTLIGHT NO. 15

CITY LIGHTS
BOOKS

DAVID
BRAZIL

HOLY
GHOST

CITY LIGHTS
SAN FRANCISCO



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Some of these poems have previously appeared in various fugitive publications.
My thanks to the editors.

CITY LIGHTS SPOTLIGHT

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As the Eagle, the Wild Goose and the Breeze See It (detail)
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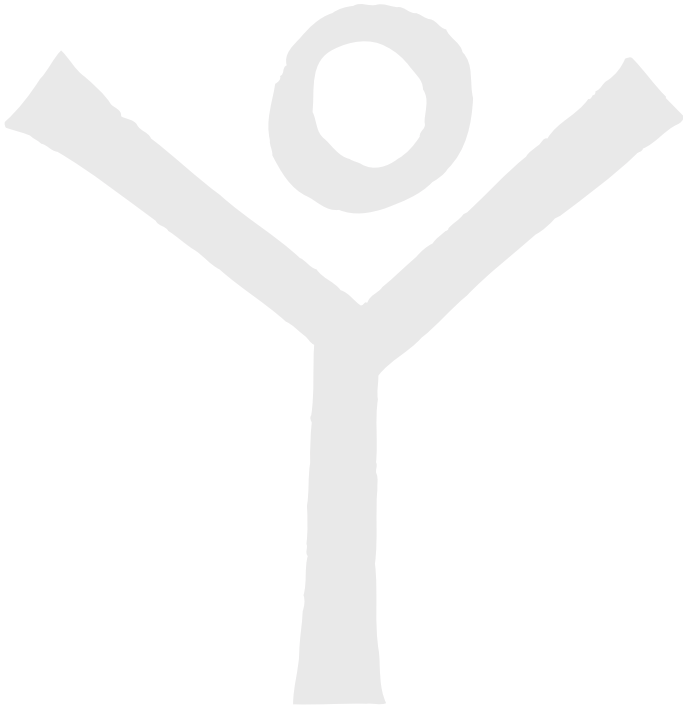
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This book is for Carol Estes,
Andrea Davidson and Lynice Pinkard
—mothers in the gospel



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I am so grateful to you all.

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“... to decide on the holy ghost . . .”

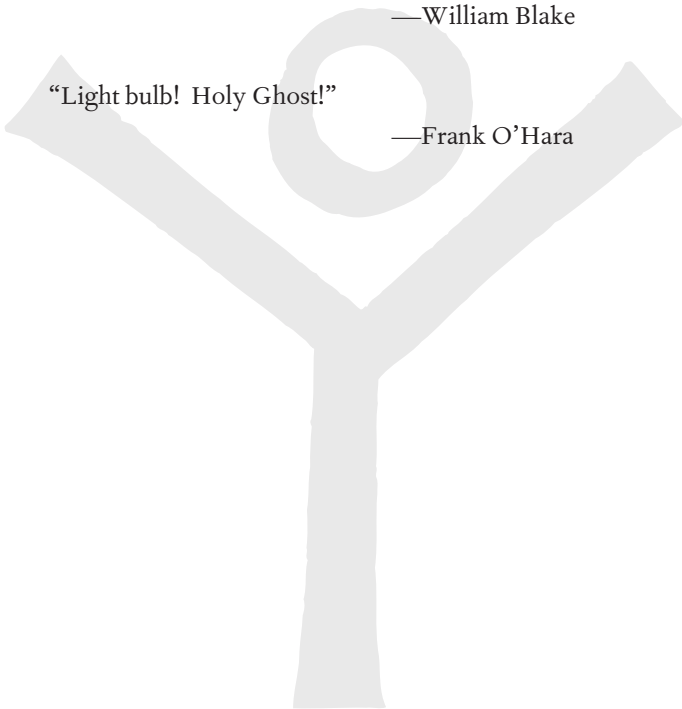
—Ezra Pound

“Is the Holy Ghost any other than an Intellectual Fountain?”

—William Blake

“Light bulb! Holy Ghost!”

—Frank O’Hara



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CONTENTS

Prayer	1
Holy Ghost Say	3
To Be Alive While You're Alive	4
Holy Ghost Practice	6
Thirty-Six	7
Holy Ghost Grant	12
One Dust Song	13
Holy Ghost Ask	15
Twa Corbies	16
Holy Ghost Open	19
Kids	20
Holy Ghost Question	22
Tyrant Song (You Know Who You Are)	23
Holy Ghost Channel	25
Prole Song	26
Holy Ghost Channel (II)	27
Diane Arbus	28
Holy Ghost Stand	30

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CITY LIGHTS

BOOKS

Slave Song	31
Holy Ghost Say (II)	32
The General Strike / The Entry Of Christ Into Oakland	33
Holy Ghost Like	34
An Unopened Letter From Diane Di Prima	35
Holy Ghost Name	36
This Is What The Spirit Bid Me	37
Holy Ghost Joy	41
Essays Upon Epitaphs	42
Holy Ghost Veil	43
To Jane : The Invitation	44
Holy Ghost Veil (II)	45
Sorry I Didn't Notice Your Haircut	46
Holy Ghost Remember	48
O Common	49
Holy Ghost Come	50
A Collect	51
Holy Ghost Face	52
A Coracle	53
Holy Ghost Return	54

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CITY LIGHTS

What Is Bodhisattva Art?	55
Holy Ghost Rhythm	56
About The Rainbow Body	57
Holy Ghost Tune	60
My Wife, Her Phone	61
Holy Ghost Dawn	63
My Polis	64
Holy Ghost Trace	65
Your Leaven	66
Holy Ghost Go	67
Nativity Ode	68
Holy Ghost Coast	70
Sara's Song	71
Holy Ghost Tone	73
Holy Ghost Go (II)	74
We Serve Lions	75
Holy Ghost Take	79
Infancy II	80
As Mine Commune	81
Holy Ghost Stay	82

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CITY LIGHTS

For Lacey 83
Holy Ghost Become 84
The Doctrine Of The Symbol 85

Holy Ghost Hear 87

Parousia (The Plaza) 88

Holy Ghost Rime 89

A Wind It Sifts 91

Holy Ghost Play 94

Rime Is The Body Of My Resurrection 95

Holy Ghost Dwell 96

Lylas 97

Holy Ghost Force 99

The Year That King Obama Died 100

Holy Ghost Fold 101

Hey Dad 102

Holy Ghost 104

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CITY LIGHTS PRAYER BOOKS

- Prayer for the soul of Karen Dalton
- Prayer for the soul of Robert Johnson
- Prayer for the soul of Percy Shelley
- Prayer for the soul of Charles Olson
- Prayer for the soul of Thomas Wyatt
- Prayer for the soul of Phyllis Wheatley
- Prayer for the soul of Laurence Clarkson
- Prayer for the soul of Anacharsis Cloots
- Prayer for the soul of Herman Melville
- Prayer for the soul of Baruch Spinoza
- Prayer for the soul of John Wieners
- Prayer for the soul of Louise Michel
- Prayer for the soul of Bertolt Brecht
- Prayer for the soul of Blind Lemon Jefferson
- Prayer for the soul of Marcel Proust
- Prayer for the soul of Jack Kerouac
- Prayer for the soul of Kurt Cobain
- Prayer for the soul of Elliott Smith
- Prayer for the soul of June Brazil
- Prayer for the soul of Stan Brakhage

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Prayer for the soul of John Lennon

Prayer for the soul of Barnett Newman

Prayer for the soul of Frank O'Hara

Prayer for the soul of kari edwards

Prayer for the soul of Stacy Doris

Prayer for the soul of Leslie Scalapino

Prayer for the soul of Dante Aligheri

Prayer for the soul of Christine di Pizan

Prayer for the soul of Billie Holiday

Prayer for the soul of Etta James

Prayer for the soul of Akilah Oliver

Prayer for the soul Shulamith Firestone

Prayer for the soul of Jacques Derrida

Prayer for the soul of Lou Reed

Prayer for your soul & my soul & the souls of everyone
we know and love between us,

prayers for all the liberators and
prayers for those in need of liberation,
we are the same people.

Prayer for the soul of David Brazil.

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HOLY GHOST SAY

Say my
name, say my name,
say my name, I
thought I overheard your wishes, we
live in the stutter & from a flaw we gather
butter of the resurrection deliberate as
light after a rainy morning as
instruction. He wed not these
creatures fail to flourish us, but
ripen love within slave gates, the
lord shall be a wall of fire &
there is no veil,
the check good daughter's in the mail.

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TO BE ALIVE WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE

To be alive
while you're alive
turns out to be a taller order than
expected, I
get up early for a change & the
moon's still out, with
Venus her consort,
but now it's a little later & that
eastern sun has writ her into
ineligibility,
early morning contrails &
Kensington blues,
smoke or is it steam from the
house across the way,
I wipe condensation off the
big front window with the
flat of hand so I could
see through it, *drosos* is the
word we find in Aeschylus for both

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dew & the young of an animal,

xaire Eos,

salve Aurora,

I met dawn just out the

threshold of my dad's house in

forest, Forest Home,

big bird lopes by upon its ground of

wind & the white van's still

parked across the street,

but if Jack Rose,

“Jack, joke, poor potsherd,”

five birds cross, now

visible in distance one last time before

they're vanishing forever forward,

& I was wrong, the moon's

still out, the movement of an

airplane thru the firmament

had drew my eye to it, so

let me attend, let me tend,

“now that I'm a man full grown.”

Thanks Dad. Thanks Jack. Thanks, Dawn.

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HOLY GHOST PRACTICE

I practice and meditate,
that's all I do.
There are no books about me,
I died, I
died and I live your speaking,
where there are two,
where there is a river of love,
where we tarry with the mystery,
among the memorial stones,
drawing down the consequences,
do you not yet know there aint no grave.

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CITY LIGHTS THIRTY-SIX BOOKS

Thirty six & with the right to
chant the passage for if I am

lacking in the right at this age when then
shall I have the chance to

speak my worldly transit in such words as
you might have my fellow transiter?

Like you I'm the smoke ascending from
the process in the light that

grows more fierce as day dives
toward its noon the sun speaks

of a city where we were and built it with
our loves and sacrifice and how

we weathered seasons lacking info & still
wandered this is songs that

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will not die I'm asking you if you have
likewise felt this way and

what you did with it, with sun, with
smoke and human form, to what use then

your most colossal breakfast or these
words you learned your whole life long,

if not to save at last one human soul or
thousands by the echoes that

resound in them from logos always working in
our dormancies, that seizes us in

sleep to reacquaint us every time with
principles, with aches and with

foundations, so a song a mother sang is in
your ear two decades hence as

one lost charm of what a love may be when
you're in need of it, the

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sun the smoke the song you frame or utter
all the human city where I found

myself in some way lost but heading for
the clues of any outside to the valley

and a tone shall lead them there,
what's coming through to me through you is

rescue that we get the rope we'll
grab down here so body is

our instrument the doubled heart in it is
what we wake to when we're

tried by fire of the day whose haze is
analog to birth by which we're

set behind a window for to see it, every
lord likes song and mine is heeding

this one as a cause for singing city body our
beloved precinct where I settled

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all my loves into the starry crown of Oakland for
stability in which I've made a pact

so that the heart may sort its portions within
time to objects that endure there

as the symptom of the vanished underlying
father we are waiting for

but please dont leave us please dont
leave us do not render me

an orphan of phenomenon I dreamt your body and
then you dreamt mine,

the bubble mist or haze or smoke or
thunderclap of being all this is

does not recuse us from the work of love
but throws us in it all the more

as we see all the sorrowing in city for what
calls not for a sorrowing a

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cliff I'm living on becomes the vantage out from which I
see the towers trees and wires all the

houses pickets poles particulars of
fog which just means elements of

this our common city we agree can
communicate exchange or

love each other over or else
mourn and keep on walking or else

tell you what I saw.

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