

PHILIP HAMMIAL

OF KNOWLEDGE AND ITS FRUIT

Having ascertained that it's the miracle
of the dimple in your deep device that's put me
out in the weather with my uncle, I'm unsure
as to a course of action — whether to acknowledge
that, yes, I am
just a bit naked here, or, conversely, to admit
that what I like to think of as my short
is what he calls his sweet, or, a third
alternative, to simply soften
my significance?

But does
it matter? What advantage
in a soft significance, especially if
its short is sweet? What's the point of ascertaining
if the diaphanous one who as soon as I've gone
will speak my piece — about how I wish my aunt was here
to cut my uncle down to size (how
small? — as a saint with his halo
down around his ankles) — is worthy
of my notice?

And what, for
that matter, given
that I am out and probably to stay
in this weather with an uncle I'm not even sure
is my own, possible benefit can there be
in knowing for a fact that it's the miracle
of the dimple in your deep device
that's put me here?