

Barry Ballard

## DEALING WITH THE CLAY

*Trouble is a part of your life, and if you don't share it,  
you don't give the person who loves you a chance to  
love you enough.*

Dinah Shore

I wonder how conventional our sex  
Is going to be the next few times we  
Meet. Or how it will affect the degree  
Of our experiments that must correct  
Themselves due to my torn disc. The effects  
From all of this don't necessarily  
Say that much right now. But some things can be  
Reminders of what you shouldn't neglect.

Like all kinds of disparity that we've  
Resolved like poets and lovers. And like  
Edges that we can sharpen or diffuse.  
But sometimes it's just "matter," things we leave  
Alone, the clay that's absent of insight  
From the sculptor, altering what we choose.