

# Peter Hammill, Lunatic In Knots

Unchain me from this lunatic  
before he drags me to my knees;  
I'd have to be some kind of Houdini  
to unpick knots like these.

While I was sleeping half a lifetime away  
someone moved the scenery,  
all my blocks went astray.  
So I awoke uneasy  
and, as I spoke, grew queasy...

I don't remember much about last night  
but I suspect I went too far,  
became just a passenger in my actions,  
asleep at the wheel of the car.

While I was sleeping someone stole in my room,  
rearranged the pictures  
and threw my bookmarks away.  
The shadow's swiftly deepening  
in the tidepull of the moon  
while the lunatic  
does his party tricks  
but what makes him tick  
he's still most reluctant to say.

Before the facts there's no pat explanation...  
only this Other implies  
whatever I did was Not I.

While I was sleeping  
off the wake of the wake  
I was less at home in my dreams than in my mistakes.  
The lunatic's been creeping  
settling and setting on my face  
and we're bound together  
we're tied and tethered  
I don't know whether  
the bond is one I can break.

After the act there's no hidden intention,  
just fumbling around for the plot,  
tying myself up tighter and tighter in knots.

So many angels,  
however many can there be, ghosts and djinns  
dancing on the head of a pin?  
How many questions are left unresolved?  
Exactly where do I begin  
now that the walls are closing in?  
Who's the lunatic  
and who's the sensible soul deep within the skin,  
hanging on and listening in...?

Unchain me from this lunatic  
restrain him in his cage  
keep him away from me  
keep him away from the stage.

Unchain me from this lunatic  
whose every action shouts me down;  
keep him away from me,  
keep me away from this clown.

Unchain me from this lunatic  
restrain him in his cage  
keep him away from me  
keep him away from me  
keep me away from his rage

While I was sleeping  
the lunatic stirred.  
I've no alibi  
for his beady eye.  
Oh, I talk my head off...  
he's a man of few words.