

VITAL MEANING

Mark Rhoads

That God could write
with a universe,
prolific, terse,
in matter and light,

is mystery to a creature
who is merely equipped
to read from script,
not by nature,

but by ordinance
in dim-lit rooms
where one assumes
by force of persistence

that ways of knowing
are consigned to books
or study nooks
or forms as limiting.

But the cosmos shouts
a thesis; clear
to all who hear,
there are not doubts

of the hidden character,
the godly quality,
and timeless authority
of the world's Maker.

Not with platitude,
but with a force
that contests the course
of turpitude,

Creation, profuse
with vital meaning,
leaves us reeling—
without excuse.

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