

## GROUND TRUTHS

My teachers said:  
a good builder  
requires six things:  
water, clay, timber,  
stones, canes, and iron;  
if not canes, surely  
a measuring rod.

I did them right,  
learned the trade  
and to adobe added  
an orbital world  
or two. A good boy,  
I threw no shadow  
across their equation.

Until one day questions  
beset me – why build,  
whose abode, why some  
strut when others kneel?  
They said: ah, ah, silly  
boy – we don't ask,  
here, we're just builders.

I said – look at things  
taking rod-sure shape –  
flyovers, rap, Hockney's  
photomontages,  
helices that turn left then  
right, even key lime  
pie, my God that's new!

They said, nothing  
the sun hasn't seen,  
kid – bend down. And  
I bent down, saw  
the lily-of-the valley's  
bells peeking cream-  
like over late snow.