

THE SAVAGE PARTICLES

"When one has got to make correct entries, one comes to hate those savages—
hate them to the death."

--Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Look, and say can you see
what you must see
in the darkness of the heart---
minute drops of water
which accomplish
so much ruin

Does hating them, those savage particles
dispensing panic, anxiety, divisions,
perpetual discord about the science of whatever
ever suffice, ever resolve
the tyranny of amazing disease?

Can instruments be brought or bought
to discover and destroy
these wild agents of Nature?
Do they have purpose
which evades our understanding?

No doubt they do,
No doubt they teach
how small we are
watching
what time begets, what time disappears.

Make correct entries
in the vortex of knowing
our cosmic antiquity.

Jerry W. Ward, Jr., New Orleans, Louisiana