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Expert Opinions

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EXPERT OPINIONS

Daniel Cameron

Mostly now a day is judged by its losses of time,
like garments on a clothesline, its worth
is assessed by how riddled it is with holes.
Tug the fabric, pull it down – Can you get away with wearing it
once more?

Through the tears, what glimpses
will they see, of what skin, and how many opinions is that?

Same number as gentlemen's bets
made on whether it will be sooner
or later that you slip and expose yourself
while trying to start again,
from the edge of the bed,
to the pantry,
to the whirring chrysalis of the shower.

Where could it have gone – the day, your day?

Awoken in a wrong home perchance,
not where it is supposed to be,
fallen into a hundred holes, small and shameful,
each one persistently life-proofed,
quality tested by a professional crackup.

It has landed you, naked, in a superstitious
place.

Call up customer service from that other world.

Answer, though you were the one to ring.

Hey! Hello – are you studying one thought?
Or racing to keep up with a flurry?

Just tell me: Is anyone else – panic – is anyone
else going to count themselves off?

Yes. Your characters, they will survive you
though they are embittered:
keys, telephone, mirror.

Cameron: Expert Opinions

Bus window. They will pay
their respects like you did
always, prematurely.

Even if mercy is a terrible thing to have tested.
Even if you met them, chided them
when you did not understand
that you have yet to exhaust the ability to find
meaning in anything, that you are only on the brink
of the overwhelming
innervation that is life.