



Volume 10
Issue 1 *Spring/Summer 2002*

Article 10

5-1-2002

Altered Perspectives

Mark Brittain
Concordia University - Portland

Follow this and additional works at: <http://commons.cu-portland.edu/promethean>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Brittain, Mark (2002) "Altered Perspectives," *The Promethean*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.
Available at: <http://commons.cu-portland.edu/promethean/vol10/iss1/10>

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by CU Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Promethean by an authorized administrator of CU Commons. For more information, please contact libraryadmin@cu-portland.edu.

ALTERED PERSPECTIVES

MARK BRITTAİN

“Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.”

--Soren Kierkegaard, *Either/Or: A Fragment of Life*

The universe according to Stephen Hawking
might be different if not for Amyotrophic
Lateral Sclerosis. The Unified Field Theory
might still be lurking in his brain
behind a grocery list
and the directions to his girlfriend's apartment.
Had his nerves not revolted and severed
brain from body
would he formulate a different cause and consequence;
an un-divine spark
that would create a cacophony
of pulpit-pounding denials?

ALS is Lou Gehrig's Disease,
but Lou wasn't one to take credit for things.
He left baseball because of it
and despite it
he was, "...the luckiest man alive."
Perhaps. What did he know?
He was the Iron Horse
and played and played
until he played himself out
of a game, a livelihood, a life.
Nevertheless, he passed his own Socratic
examination. Satisfied, his understanding, complete.