

## Kairos: Redux

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*I believe Freud's Unheimlich also has its remote roots here: in the idea of a destiny that looks at us from afar, pushing us to find, beyond any idol or fetish, the measure of our kairos, our due time.*

- Giacomo Marramo

It is unsettling to read these texts in which the anguish of my formation inscribed itself and now opens anew. I am no longer so young. I could not say what has passed, but the words, still familiar, are strange to me. I am hoping to leverage from this event a kairotic re-punctuation, to wrest what is mine and to mourn the rest. To act, then: to bring to an end all this hamlet and hawing, my piss-poor prufrocking, doing and undoing and doing again.

The title of the unruly dissertation from which these texts originated was "Let Fall: Hysteria and the Psychoanalytic Act." My symptom, as one of my committee members interpreted, this wishing to fall:

throwing my young body into freezing waters because I could

I am no longer so young. Slowly, I take on the shape of my chair. The body poses its questions and someday my body will become question mark hanging out of sight of supine seekers. Strange how much I live now in this endless chain of hearsay, suspended and suspending. I have come to know something of due time, can feel its breath against the back of my neck day in and day out. Always the dummy, the corpse... I can feel this hollowing out inside myself and long after the hour ends. Often, and with the people I love most, I can think of nothing to say. It is only beginning to become visible to me what I have consented to.

And yet here I am, putting pen to paper, wagering myself again, making measure of this kairos that is mine. I consent to live this blindness that nevertheless stares back, and yet to keep believing some part of me is unerodable. I want to thank my wife, Becky, for loving that part and for tolerating and forgiving my mumbling, overwork, and myriad other means of fading. Thank you, Vanessa, for your labor of love. Thank you, Julie, germ, Emma, and Katie for the opportunity to make this offering.