

Monday, March 8

The Situation

When the pain was fresh
for a while the problem got very clear

and the clarity constituted a kind of relief
as if the problem had withdrawn
to watch what you would do.

But after while the clarity began to fade,
and three days later you couldn't have articulated
precisely what the problem *was*,

and three days after that you forgot
that there even was a problem
and your old way of thinking resumed.

You're just a citizen
of your own familiarity
who can't remember himself in a different way.

You go along and every now and then
the path jumps out from under you.
And you have learned to expect this upheaval,

as much as that is possible.
One might say it is with a kind of fidelity
that you keep making your mistakes,

and then renewing them,
as if you were following a sign that says,

This Way to Freshness.

Tony Hoagland