

Poems

MAKE BELIEVE

by Alan Nordstrom

for Hans Vaihinger

Between whatever Is and what we know
A chasm yawns, beyond which we can't go
But by belief, a hopeful rope we toss
Out spiderlike that we might climb across.

What it attaches to we may suppose
Is real and true, not poetry but prose,
Not merely woven metaphor but fact,
The wished-for comprehension that we lacked.

Yet who's to say we haven't made it up
Imagining as full what's half a cup,
As fancy always will to fill a gap,
A vacuum we abhor, an empty map?

When knowledge fails it's stories we employ
To make believe what fictions we enjoy.

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