## No Such Thing

I'm sorry

There's no such thing
As a human being
Only all the possibilities
In the conditions of living

Sublime dignity Selfless generosity Barbaric brutality Vicious depravity

And everything in between There's no such thing As a human being

Only what we seed into being

Imagine compassion Courageous action Imagine that

A young Greta screamed At the so-called leaders An the UN assembly In their ill-fated meeting

Greta screamed "How dare you!"

Of course we may act with courage

In a most important realm

And then be utterly morally mistaken

In another situation

Misinformed, perhaps misled To be human is complex

DNA, rearing, personal experience Education, nutrition and friends All determining just how that seed

Will grow in the end It all depends

Cause there's no such thing

As a human being only all the possibilities Look around what we see Throughout all of history

War!

Plant a seed Bombs! Plant a seed Butchering babies! Plant a seed

Burning children alive!

Oh my god!

There is no such thing As a human being

Only what we seed ourselves to be

In conditions we arrange From the range of possibility For our growth to take shape The ideas we choose to feed on

Destructive futility
Or ballets of agility
Toward human flourishing
And who we are becoming

Bonnie Selterman November 2023