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Tattoo

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Phil Jenks

Tattoo

poem

a white man
in a white room
in a white shirt
whose shirts feel
worse in the north
side
his "I have the right
to condemn you because
I am right and you are wrong"
distended lecture laughter,
the funny (white) man.

but am i outside of him?
would that i puncture my
skin w/the socalled "tribal"
or white lady verse figure?
white man says i'd ask you if you
had a productive day yesterday
but since i know you had no specific
things to work on, to ask would do know good."

his/my white certainty
can be found "logistically how to arrange it"
"i or my wife"
or "salary schedules" "division of management"
"raw data" white white white anytime whites dont
say white they mean white.

*Phil Jenks is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kentucky in political science.
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