

1994

In the 1930s I'd wake up at 5A and run down stairs to have breakfast with my father: This was the only time I was ever alone with him: At breakfast: My father would ask me: "Eagle Eye: Why are you maxing out the house coffee and humming an beings the same?" I'd answer: "Because use the y're both good to the last drop?" The minute the brain: or later the pain: In New York City: a vodka and tonic at two giant New Jersey friends and Abraham Nachamkin: Louis Armstrong: Stopped playing long bar behind a huge glass wall a glass of milk and wearing a thrill Ellington: Louis Armstrong said: "La smile; Raised his glass of milk: Yes: Their jazz was not fake balls jazz: These fit to their Self: That which within them they're I was 50: At a San Francisco night club with the intimate Gershwin revue: George Gershwin was my probably my first drink since the 60s: I remember walking out of the crapper sur le louvre: Then: Waking us back to Berkeley over the Beautiful Bay Bridge easily: Tequila in a coconut shell: Coco Loco: On Roquette Beach Silveroques: And the architect Freddy El Fuerte in Acapulco: are the only drinks I can remember: I rarely felt a need to drink ability to be as people are on hooch: Pot: Or coke: All the time: boys get a spoon of wine when they get their Schwartzenegger behavior: I was imitating him more than I knew: My father had women: "Is anything OK?": Once in his 60s: My father woke where the best hospital in town was: Walked the few blocks here who can help me?": The heart specialist who happened to be at the hospital checked him out: Said: "You're having a little heart attack: Mr. Daniels: But why don't you go back to your hotel and finish having a good time on your vacation": He did: Now: In 1994: I was 61: I was often waking up in the morning exhausted after a full night's sleep: My legs aching: My body and sheets drowning in sweat as if I had been running up and down the stairs of the Empire State Building all night: I went in for surgery to remove a cyst from my hand: On the little red digital readout my blood pressure read 215/120: Normal is 120/80: A heart specialist gave me that horribly uncomfortable slave on the treadmill test: I told him to stop: I got off: Too uncomfortable: The heart specialist said: "I bet this is the first time you've exercised since you were 19": I said: "Wrong: 12: Dogs run: Humans walk": Lucky for me Fred Miller: The world's merriest Doctor: Put me on Nifedipine 60mg and Lisinipril 20mg a day: Blood pressure: Now: 107/69: All my life my blood pressure had been 135/95: I began to understand why I had learned to work in intense spurts: And why I was easily tired physically: And why it was so easy for me to learn how to relax exterior muscles at will: Now: In 1994: I was 61: Oddly: I felt younger than I ever had in my life: My heart no longer had to run a marathon to pump and suck the blood round my rivers: Yes: Today many people don't understand death is lucky: For Medicine has become just a little less luckier than death: Due to drug's triumph over high blood pressure's grinding blood strife: A 61 year old Jewish orphan from beyond the stars: Did not pop his cork: Nor blow out his tire: Instead of certain death: Was fit as a goat leg yiddle on a rag time fiddle: Body young for the first time in his life:

d creates
Then sooner
heart elates
949: Bop City:
I was 15: Nursing
a tiny little table with
friends: Paul Finkelstein
Suddenly: The great artist:
laying and pointed to the great
all: At the long long bar: Drinking
ling camel hair overcoat was Duke
dies and gentlemen: The fabulous Duke
Duke Ellington nodded a super subtle cool
e were Gods: And I have seen and heard them:
ne men were real human beings: With real access
ally were: And they had no fear of beauty: In 1983
Shakespearean actress Feline Filene: Attending an
idol when I was a child: I was drinking a vodka and tonic:
alking to the crapper sur le louvre to take a piss: I remember
up on the night club lobby floor: I seemed to be OK: I drove
Except for a few Berthas at Berthas in Taxco: And a fabulous
with the donkeys that drank beer: And: The Blonde Bombshell Bettie
Having my one J&B tumbler a year in Brooklyn: These
alcohol: I thought it was either because of my earned
Or of my screaming briss experience: For: One week old Jewish
sliced: Or that my father drank rarely: And I was imitating his
d more heart attacks than a waiter who has asked a table of 5 Jewish
up in a hotel room in Vienna: Went down to the lobby: Asked
to the hospital: Said: "I am having a heart attack: Is there a young
d to be at the hospital checked him out: Said: "You're having a
a good time on your vacation":
My legs aching: My body and sheets drowning in sweat as if I had been running up and down the stairs of the Empire State Building all night: I went in for surgery to remove a cyst from my hand: On the little red digital readout my blood pressure read 215/120: Normal is 120/80: A heart specialist gave me that horribly uncomfortable slave on the treadmill test: I told him to stop: I got off: Too uncomfortable: The heart specialist said: "I bet this is the first time you've exercised since you were 19": I said: "Wrong: 12: Dogs run: Humans walk": Lucky for me Fred Miller: The world's merriest Doctor: Put me on Nifedipine 60mg and Lisinipril 20mg a day: Blood pressure: Now: 107/69: All my life my blood pressure had been 135/95: I began to understand why I had learned to work in intense spurts: And why I was easily tired physically: And why it was so easy for me to learn how to relax exterior muscles at will: Now: In 1994: I was 61: Oddly: I felt younger than I ever had in my life: My heart no longer had to run a marathon to pump and suck the blood round my rivers: Yes: Today many people don't understand death is lucky: For Medicine has become just a little less luckier than death: Due to drug's triumph over high blood pressure's grinding blood strife: A 61 year old Jewish orphan from beyond the stars: Did not pop his cork: Nor blow out his tire: Instead of certain death: Was fit as a goat leg yiddle on a rag time fiddle: Body young for the first time in his life: