

ISLE OF CERTITUDE

Citizens with Answers display an omnipresent scarlet
“A” On class rings, tie-dyed T-shirts, and baseball caps,
On amulets, billboards, and street signs.

ORTHODOXY does away with budding queries,
Corrects language, and enforces laws
In libraries overflowing with scriptures,
Creeds, and how-to books,
Giving guided tours of chiseled tombstones: THOUGHT,
CONJECTURE, DISCUSSION,
And the most fearsome, QUESTIONS.

HERESY laps at the shores
Where bikini-clad DOCTRINES
Lounge on CANONICAL blankets
Beneath ECCLESIASTICAL umbrellas,
Sending siren calls across the waves:
“Come back . . . Be safe . . . Be saved.”

From a parapet atop the city wall,
North, south, east, and west,
DOGMA scans the SEA OF UNCERTAINTY,
Tracking vessels named FEARLESS and INTREPID
Riding 100-foot crests of HOPE,
Disappearing in troughs of DESPAIR.

The sea teems with questions:
Whale questions, minnow questions,
Shark questions, goldfish questions
That animate the lone ADVENTURER
Navigating tides of TOLERANCE
Over reefs of TRADITION,
Unwrapping gifts from mixed bags
Of the UNKNOWN and the UNKNOWABLE,
Tasting delights and mysteries
As winds waft welcome waves of DOUBT
Across the SEA OF UNCERTAINTY.”

