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## 24<sup>1</sup> Ways<sup>2</sup> to Plead<sup>3</sup> Not<sup>4</sup> Guilty<sup>5</sup> to Charges<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>24 being the number of eggs in a dozen prior to a baker's meddling hands, fearsome and anti-arithmetic. Also the number of hours in a non-Ramadan day in Western Hemisphere. The poet is 24 years old, skinny.

<sup>5</sup>Tillichian ontology: angst in the second degree. Guilt and condemnation. Guilt for no crime. Condemnation by nothing. Both furious and impossible. Endless ravine inhaling fathoms. Rickety Temple of Doom bridge. The poet stops, grabs on tightly.

<sup>2</sup>Way: which, the, no, all, al+s, side, long, millions of, evil, crooked, mysterious.

<sup>6</sup>Tied to rocks, anchored, charges dropped into Loch Ness' blackberry depths. Kaboom, Ogopogo. Kaboom Ogopogo. Catch blubber falling from the sky. Make soap. Cry. Allahula la ackbar

<sup>9</sup>One's not as prime as you think.

## of Lighting<sup>7</sup> Ladyfingers<sup>8</sup> in One's<sup>9</sup> Nose<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Pete pleads for pleats in pants.  
Pants' pleats plead for iron. Iron  
wheezes water, distilled. Burned  
into stomachs.

<sup>7</sup>Lighting one's face with green  
phosphorescent freckles ripped  
from lightning bugs' butts stick  
nicely under eyes not so well on  
teeth run around backyard hoping  
for ufos at very least airplanes

<sup>10</sup>Using scientific method one can  
deduce that the Sphinx once had a  
nose, now deteriorated by time,  
erosion, canons. Apply scientific  
theory: a series of disproof always  
in flux. Nothing is proven. Little  
holds a scent.

<sup>4</sup>Not ever going back to that place  
where the Indian grabbed my penis  
in the shower, shaved my testicles,  
frowned at me, invited me to his  
home after Mosque. Failure to tie  
the Not. Gradations of negativity.  
Opposites reach one another at the  
most extreme points of each's  
being, ice burns hot, laughter yields  
tears, hate soothes like love burning,  
yin swims into yang. Where then  
does mathematics allow for the  
morphing of opposites. Negative  
numbers move infinitely negative.  
There is no extreme to be met.  
Answer: positive is not negative's  
opposite.

<sup>8</sup>Bismi-Allah Al-Rahman Al-  
Raheem. Shove those fuckers way  
up there. Smells of sulfur and  
paper. Tiny cilia fuse protruding.  
Smile that Salat smile. This is  
gonna hurt.