

Janus-faced goodbye

She did not like it when I said bye
She did not like it when I said goodbye
It meant closure
It meant the end
But I was aware that once it had meant something else
That it had meant
God Be with ye
That it had then become Good Be with ye
That it had only then come to mean, in a world slowly turning secular
what it stood for
now
suggesting
no more seeing
each other
When I said goodbye
I meant
go(o)d go with you
in my absence
but she heard it differently
as a fare thee well
Final. Finale. Farewell. La finalité
between now and then
between her knowledge of the word's use in the present
and mine of its use in the past
was a gap
I could only bridge
each time we met
again & a gain

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The Pangolin Review; Issue 7, 8 November 2018