

NY NQ

JAMES
DICKEY:

Well let's end up with one thing that I would like to make in a statement, a very simple and a childish and a naive kind of a statement, What you have to realize when you write poetry, or if you love poetry, is that poetry is just naturally the greatest god damn thing that ever was in the whole universe. If you love it, there's just no substitute for it. I mean, you read a great line, or somebody's great poem, well, it's just there! I also believe that after all the ages and all the centuries and all the languages, that we've just arrived at the beginning of what poetry is capable of. All of the great poets: the Greek poets, the Latins, the Chinese, the French, German, Spanish, English—they have only hinted at what could exist as far as poems and poetry are concerned. I don't know how to get this new kind of sound, or this new kind of use in language, but I am convinced that it can be done by somebody, maybe not by me, but by somebody. I feel about myself as a writer like John the Baptist did, when he said, "I prepare the way for one who is greater than I." Yeah, but look who it was!

