

Business Trip

BD Feil

I asked well
wasn't it a pain travelling so much
when we were young
when your family was growing
when your wife waited at home
for your return and he said
yes at least I think he said
yes and I just didn't drop it
in the top of my head like a kiss
on the forehead the way a father
does a son sometime out of the wide ocean blue
and he said well
it replaced a different kind
travelling did
and I watched him
not sure what he had meant
but sure he had meant it
he meant travelling replaced a different kind of pain
a pain of of daily courtesy
a pain of unerring constancy
a pain of repeated devotion
he was talkative at least
I think he was and it just wasn't me
then he said the goddamned pain of love
and there was a pause or was it
silence but yes
to answer your question he said
yes
travelling was a bit of a pain now that you ask