

white

1.

the clouds worn at birth

2.

bread that easily formed small pellets  
to shoot at siblings  
across the lunch table

3.

the veil and the oceans of satin  
wrapping the bride for one day

4.

dapper suits for summertime  
linen frocks, rope espadrilles

5.

french lace on tables  
voile hazing the view out the window  
bleach-painted floors

6.

the light in the last room  
you ascend to

reincarnation

arrive with nothing.  
recognize mother  
pull the cat's tail  
learn to walk  
learn the names of stars  
learn the tale of love  
save your son from drowning  
but drown yourself

arrive with nothing  
learn the names of stars  
burn through days  
ignite the hearts of women  
drive over a cliff

arrive with nothing  
learn the names of rivers  
build a grand palace on a cliff  
feast daily on meat and wine  
succumb to diabetes

arrive with nothing  
learn the names of mountains  
grow wheat near a river  
avoid sugar  
watch your grandson swim  
sleep under starlight  
and not wake up

arrive with nothing  
learn the way to fold  
wheat and sugar together  
knead bread and brioche  
feed rivers of hungry sons  
and daughters who are not yours  
set the dough to rise under wet gauze  
but one day never rise

arrive with nothing  
sweetly sing to wheatfields

sing to the birds of prey  
circling over nearby cliffs  
sing to the fish in the river  
high notes glistening jewels of sun spots  
pray to deities living on mountain peaks  
peek into mysteries in your soul  
leave with everything

arrive with nothing

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch

- (a small village in north Wales on the village of Anglesey, the name actually means "the church of St. Mary in the hollow of white hazel trees near the rapid whirlpool by St. Tysilio's of the red cave.")

in the hollow  
of white hazel trees  
near the rapid whirlpool  
by st. tysilio's  
of the red cave

in the hollow of white hazel trees  
near a whirling whirlpool  
of the saint of the red cave

in the hollow  
near the switches and hazelnuts  
near the rushing stream  
that whirls  
where the saint  
of the red cave  
took refuge

in the hollow  
near the pool  
by the saint's cave

by the whorls  
of the swift whirlpool  
near the hollow  
where the white hazelnuts  
grow, where nuts litter the ground  
and berries brighten the hedge,  
near the red cave of the saint

(there, i met my love.)

gwrando

medulla oblongata oboe  
mellow mesmerizer  
listen, know, oh no!

medulla oblongata óbó  
þroskaður Mesmerizer  
hlusta, vita, ó nei!

medula oblongata oboe  
tulivu mesmerizer  
kusikiliza, kujua, oh no!

Sredica oblongata oboo  
mehak Mesmerizer  
Poslušaj, veš, oh ne!

obo oblongata medulla  
mesmerizer mellow  
gwrando, yn gwybod, oh na!

бар oblongata жимбүүр хөгжмөөр  
mellow mesmerizer  
Өө, би мэднэ, сонс!

medulla oblongata opou  
mesmerizer rewa  
whakarongo, e mohio, kahore oh!

(icelandic, swahili, slovenian, welsh, mongolian, maori. *courtesy of "google translate"*)

where the poems wait

wolavers, long trail,  
otter creek, copper hook.

hopdevil, arrogant bastard,  
old scratch, hobgoblin.

turbo dog, golden monkey,  
dogfish head, riverhorse.

tiger, woodchuck,  
black sheep, pork slap.

blackened voodoo, purple haze,  
UFO, unearthly.

dreamweaver, ephemera.  
glissade, la fin du monde.

the harp

we were hewn from the same tree,  
my smoothed curves polished,  
wings and cherubs carved into me,  
along my spine,  
holes drilled along the interior edge,  
taut catgut plugged into the holes.  
my strings reverberate for angels.  
the color of wings,  
and fans waving languorously in parlors,  
i sing in white.

they plunged into him with metal.  
he is a shaft holding a razor-sharp hook,  
prelude to carnage.  
though we were once together as one,  
he never hears my melody,  
is attuned only to waves,  
always ready to fly up  
and find his mark in flesh,  
"call me harpoon!" he cries out.  
"where is the white whale,  
slick with ocean spume, where?"

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