

assured that you would know that i am listening.

instead, these utterances i speak to a dead tree
proof themselves of the lie they tell.

Pete

i am in need O i am wrapped up

Pete

to be a monk

i bathe with cupped hands
in the waters of the cool spring

in my bathtub.

i breathe breathe and
ebb sweet ablutions
run down my neck and
pool in my lap.

Pete, i want to be

the bird who moves in lush color
who waits in the air

port eternal scanning the arrivals board

to be sitting in my folding
chair on my small patio
smelling my stale breath

hung under the death of the sun and
fertilized by the occasional breeze.

it would awaken me, say
look: a bomb sniffing dog leads
two men whispering
into radios off
down the concourse.

i could move in lush color thru
a summer rain, the sun
shining my feathers
prismatic.

O Pete, i could thank you

who gave me unto these

hallucinations of countries of meaning induced

by the same sun that burns me as i sit

on this patio

in this chair

as it thrums in my skin

off and on and

off and on again but i can't parse

the flickerings

too sun-addled to ascend, like you, to the outer edge
of the bubble

to slip thru and merge with the
air.

my lone recourse retreat

to the clay where i watch the
warts grow on my palms as i sink

as the rock burns in my hands hotter as it rises

screaming!

higher above my head

to be brought down

to heal hurt

to soothe burns

to hearken back

to the heat in the dark

to the hot hearth

stone glowing wet

to right wrongs

in return for a felled bird

felled with a stone.

OF GRATITUDE, IN JOINING

the scene/ set upon
the taut skin/ set upon
the flaxen morning mattress forms and folded eyelids linens/
set upon

air the calm grace of
soft in opening
this a first sum
first graze, the length of
dawn in all limens
wet in superposition
touch inherent, in one meadow, unfolding all limens

a fountain!
touch, yes, a fountain!
from where springs this sense of o fountain!

flow and ebbs in unfolding summons

meadow, in fountain
in fountain, in fountain
in fountain, in meadow,
in fountain

sound carried
in sound
on soft breaths
in the distance