

GONE
THE
BIRDS
AND
FISHES

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DESERT WILLOW SEED

GONE THE BIRDS AND FISHES

I.

Migratory Birds.

Flee winter.

Bundled in

Their feathered Coats.

Their fancy Hats.

I too. Migrate. South.

To Heat. Shivering. Bone.

To melt. Frost-frilled. Wings.

My Mind. Bird-eyed. Reflects.

A second I.

Solitary. Song-less.

Flying straight.

Death-arrow aimed.

One Bird. Or Other.

With compass. True.

Instinct. Homes.

In Axis-honed.

Magnetic. Flight.

Sky-diving Twins.

In tandem

Collide.

With
Battered wings.
Die. Twice.
Mirrored in Mirrored.
Depthless. Sky-full. Glass.

II.

Down again.
Go Fishhooks.
Into my Mind's clear Stream.
Dubious. Duplicitous Worm.
Tempted.
Concealing Barbs and Snags.

My weakest Fish.
A Species of Discontent.
Blemished.
The Spawn of Desire and Grief.
Distracted.
Impulsive.
Duped by Disguise.
Prey.
To temptation.
Sweet smell.
Shiny things.
Decoys of fulfillment.

My strongest Fish.
A Species of Happiness.
Speckled.
The Spawn of Wonder and Joy.
Forward always forward Finning.
They glide.
In Calm.
Clear water.
Rapids.
Turbulent.
Floods.
Overflowing banks.
In Sun-shadowed Shallows.
Diagonals aslant.

The foolish Fish.
Darts to the trick.
Hooked. Hung-up.
Reeling.
Gills gasp. For breath.
On the suffocating Shore.
But before eyes Cloud.
A Vision –
The Stream's undifferentiated Surface.
Ripples.
Breaks.

The Wise Fish.

Wakes.

Catapults.

Up and Over.

In Play.

Radiates.

Haloed.

Throws a Net of Light and Life.

In strong.

Defiant spray.

To catch the Fisherman.

Death.

DESERT RIVERBED AFTER RAIN

Source. Unintelligible.
Brought. Significance. Down.
Flash flood. Ambushed. Reason.
Madness. Overwhelming. Overtook me.
Shocking. Wild violence.
Impulsive. Irresistible.
The annihilating Mass. Torrential.
Knocked sanity. Off-balance.
Into compulsive. Screaming pools.
Carried in its wake. Swift. Away.
Hollow. Rootless. Waste.
Assertive. Assaulting. Wave.
Doom. Invincible.
Groaning. Earth-shattering heave.
Roiling force. Insistent excavation.
Decalcified bones. Disarticulated.
Accretion. Slow. Incalculable moments.
Dark layers. Eons. Skeletal.
In Nudity of Light. Beheld.
Death. Advanced. Arsenal. Tidal.
In cyclic. Elemental war.
Proceeding rush. Of precipitous. Time.
Nature-ordered Disorder.

SPEECH OF THE DEAD

A Poem expresses. No emotion.
Estranged. Foreign. Feeling. Language.

It Speaks. Desensitized dialect. Nerveless. Insensate.
Senseless. The speech of the Dead.

Inorganic. Mineral memory. Fossil of Feeling.
Bone. In rock. Hard-pressed. Petrified.

Fire. Up the Velvet Ash. Branching.
Frozen lake. Ice-moan. Cracking. Mountained-silence.

Holocaust. Holy gift. Offering.
A blackened Limb. Altared.

Detritus. Dirt. Discarded.
Ground beneath the Ground. Material immaterial.

Plastic. Steel. Glass. Prosthetic.
Substitute for Sense. Displaced.

Particle. Light-wave. Ultraviolet.
Arrayed. In the unblinking. Telescopic. Eye.

Insensible. Insensitive. A nonsensical Language.
Impossible to Write. In animate Ink.

DESERT

I hold

wave
quavered
wind

WILLOW

onto only

driftlessly

SEED

glance off

a mind
dune
shadowed

a body
fossil
fertilized

only

a soul
oasis paradised

hold I