



the fall into language

finch song from the wood's shade
color of sunlight on birches
illuminations by which to read
hieroglyphs a sapsucker leaves
speech quick or speech frozen
the word heard

or the word
seen but silent
bird is noun
to write his poem
sapsucker taps and traps
in amber liquid his insect dinner
each one eating the other

I am a noun
I am no thing
I eat from the tree
I speak and I die
eating compels me
verb is master



I place two books one open upon the other
the position for copulation
verbs not nouns are copulative
empty words are fullest in meaning
from these two books are born
the labyrinth the dream
sky cage
a
tangled skein
the changing form of in-between
I dying live
words with legs walk off the page

In summer comes a different kind of snow
cotton drifts from the poplars
settling everywhere or nowhere
white flowers on the water
white moss on the stone
white foam on brown earth

unseen finches sing
a voiceless bird hops by
visible
in one continuous band of light
suns bud off from suns
the Word sows words
overtones
balance on a jet of water
here's nothing
but poetry

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