

Forestry Song, Movement 1

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.
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_A fool sees not the same tree
that a wise man sees_

William Blake

.
.

After man has cut & hewn

Julia E. Rogers

.
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.
.
.
.

...As wind and water shift
the scene favors liquid
lapse of thought
 from present to past rivers
 the running rock sands flow

.
.
.

& Mr. Bailey speaks
of water above
and sky below

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.

 aspect toe-slope rhododendron,
seedy delight, cocklebur,
 Red River, red rover
 Kentucky foothill
 monkey-gorge, ape-race
for Earth of slumbering liquid
and ancient raven who knows

Lean in, listen, do not take him
for fool, impair'd by city streets
rush'd down a regional highway
& cut-through as a motorist
hurried into windfields by homes
in turn

cut from these medullary rays
 .
 prized by the craftsman
 while the TREE lay unfamiliar
 .
 .
 .
 .
 .
 .
 .
 _Mr. Bailey was a dandy
 of the butterfly order_
 .
 .
 who flit by for no purpose
 seeming ordain'd
 .
 as caterpillar sips milkweed
 (common, swamp, showy)
 its veins flow with cardiac glycosides
 its most special starchy poison
 a silky milkweed coma floats
 like its
 parachute structure levitates
 .
 After a swoop to ironweed, tastes
 .
 Monarch, robin might
 avoid these bright
 .
 stored emetic poisons
 .
 .
 .
 Viceroy, lit on nearby willow, mimics these regal-oranges
 .
 .
 .
 the milky juice contains
 _asclepione, caoutchouc,
 fixed oil, tannin, glucose,
 an unisolated bitter principle_
 .
 diuretic
 .
 .
 the sap stream
 dissolves stones
 lessens congestions.
 dismissed _sine cura_
 from the pharmacopoeia.
 .
 bitter structure
 .
 .
 For sub-suburban purposes
 ...a mere pest...
 .
 ..useless..
 .
 ...witless ...

.
...not fit for the utilities...
.

.
tendrils gone to the
 woodpile
ripped from fenceposts, lawns --
for lack of margins, banks
 brainpan
--by the mower or gardener
.

.
Over the cane and turkey meadowlands
.

.
kaa, caw above
 six to eight blurs
 of black metallic, purple luster
 green wing gloss, black bill
bristly feather tuft, shaggy throat
.

.
 kaa, the raven
 lofts
 on promontory
 though he sees not
 what she sees
 tolerates him
 kaaa, _nonchalant
she has fed
at battlefields_, kaa
.

.
she may ...assume new variance...
attack intruders brutally
.

.
 genus Corvidae,
 jays and crows
her cousins at-large
 order Passeriformes
.

.
 Tertiary thriver
time-cousin to saber-teeth
mastodons, ground sloths, giant condors
 whose caw, or wonk
over the gorge wall
makes of her a monkey-witness
.

.
LIMITING FACTORS: human development
.

.
 prefers wilderness
.

.
In a gray world
cheated of color
.

no coma

no monarch

the yellow-bright lessens,

no tawny-orange flits

No
leaf thick
palisade cell
under surface
tissue sponge
for room
to cohere
by stomates

No earth loam turner

to feed cardinal
red-wing
no nest to melody holly

no means to penetrate this
squawking (raucous)

See in him forest's solid
vast inland shades, overland where raven
shrine plays on a supple bough's wag;

Somewhere outside Slade
sentinel toad or frog sentry
gloats in the dank
bloodroot by the creekside
and beneath it humble naiades
glochidia

filters detritus

freshwater
shellfish
for whom Caesar invaded Britain

(Tacitus?)

clams white settlers
fed to pigs

now needed
for pearl culture

.
.
_the rate of naiad destruction
from channel-dredging, impoundments,
urbanization of watersheds, and other
factors is accelerating too rapidly
for any mollusk-based industry to be

.
economically feasible_
.
.
.

These are the
terms of disgust,
the dark and toadish girl
does not try
.
.

For what lies between
a turkey and a toad, exactly?
.
.

Whose great toad-mother soil
golden lights of liquid rage
at prospects of blood & black gold
.

where hills fall from sight
.

Froggy by the road.
(:frog: /phrog/ 1. interj.)
.

In days when colliers first dug
these hills hard as hurdle arms
for broth & bituminous trammels
'twas I girdling for a new purchase
.

Now, in multiplicity
Man the relentless hungerer
.

impounded, rapid
cry of a river for blood
.
.

and what care I for the toadish folk,
a fool sees not the TREE
.

sleep on the toe-root engorges him
he's gone farther in than before
his vision, inner eye
around which a knowledge
nucleus accumulates
.
.

TREE teaches
its student a motive power
semina motuum
learn / don't learn
with indifference
.

we swing

.
what care we
for the tender plants, stripped...

.
cannot stop wanting
nectar

.
O toad, if you know it
...warble...
...roar...
...glisten...

.
Ask yourself how you know it

.
When birds sing on every tree
the skylark will concert for thee

.
Where the brook flown willow roots shake
a bent specter on a farther shore

.
Where the cricket mandible twins all sound
Where the raven works summer's chromatic walnuts

.
we shall dance the rapt river wake; ree-bit

.
Where winter wolves bark amid snow-wastes,
icicles; frozen particles of river
carry a freeze of soils --

.
Rocks and Giants march into the Full Sea of Time.

.
James A. Gardner