

Adieu (Names I)

the sea is full of bodies

(oceanic drift)

tell me the secrets

if not of immortality,

endurance across ages

sing me the craft

of holding together

tempests

bringing them back

to the radiant

stillness of sun-fired

glass

of hurricanes once leaping

to engulf all life,

to the tranquility of sand-speckled

beaches

yet even an ocean

is not whole—

its heart strung across

innumerable lakes and lines,

parts longing to
rejoin the vast expanse

to pulse with the movement
(the repetition)
of waves

each softly speaking
her name...

Names IV

what name can we speak
what spectacular incantation
might we utter
to stop the coming flood
of blue-black blood
poured from the wrists
of fallen gods

might the names
etched on starry constellations
carry some ultranatural force
as they pass through ages

commands from royal families

--Cepheus, Cassiopeia, Andromeda

the roar of Hercules at war

with Draco, his head wreathed

in golden flame

(the blue-bright storm of Vega)

how many lines must one carve

into the pallid flesh

until mother

or father manifest

name of the first woman

wreathed in ornate green,

emerald gowns

Speak my name to me

and give me the gift of life

Names VI

Is there any hope for us
The children of Eden cast down
To tread upon the profane earth

The babes scarred by wounds
Invisible and opaque, by broken
Mothers and silent fathers withdrawn

Where is the golden burning rose
That steadfastly remains when all
Else has wilted and frayed

The one that teaches my ownmost
Animal to sing, though it is both
Lost amid the stars and blind within

With our fleeting time, my love,
Take my trembling hand and run
Until our home becomes the sun...