

Mantra for Unpossessing

we would not break
the ice beneath
our feet to make
water a bridge

but we break faith
between two hearts
and wonder how
we stand friendless

we would not drive
an axe to roots
of a peach tree
whose fruit we crave

but we embrace
doubt with both arms
until even
a kiss tastes sour

we would not choke
rivers we hoped
salmon would leap
be we fishers

but being lost,
we burn our maps
and seal our lips
lest we confess

but let's confess
lay bare our fears
unstitch the scars
and name the wounds

some hands will tear
but some hands heal
all lips will lie
but these sing, too

unlock the cage
and see what stays
what feathers moult
what wings paint skies

a broken eye
sees broken things
close the eyelids
and gaze within

we are more than
this sum of griefs –
rise up with me
and shout your name

oh, child of stars
let go of sand:
light fears no night
the dark is home