

EARTHWORKS
and others

Tyrus Miller

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I.

"This earthwork was evidently once of considerable extent"

EVENING—

landed, light
strips lengthen
over grasshaved moraines.

Where eyes
of petrified

beasts burrowed back
from the extinct look

me from in-
side out.

HUMUS—

scents mingled
with aster
and poppy. Trellis
arm stretched out
bare, buds
in suspiration, dust-
stopped, seasons
unattended.
Mitepilled
leafface, laced
sapveins pierced by
pincermouth,
lattices
pitted with rain.
Windpockedbeds.

HULL

of the dead
lake's raincracked varve

that under

the smallest kernels
withdraw.

DEBRIS

of rock
and charred
twigs, chips

left of the black stone
slug, honed to handheld. Who
(thumb and signature, a fold
of gneiss...) would
speak for me

must let me go,
a single head among
the seifs, sixpointed
stardunes.

BAND—

strata
swaddle the bluff's
stillburned height,
eyeborne on
the alluvial reel
of images:

untallied
marks, thought-
mimes in the flooded chalk-
mine, the wordmind's
shafted depths.

SANDKERNS

encoded, released from
the windcrept dune,

buried, the
strandenthreshing
twinyblack cablemesh

tugged by knotted
cordages of glass:

"With clothwound hands we
dug here." In calmest
air, each fall-line trembles
and icons, buried, reappear:

storms of quartzflower reposed
the rockfaces, years marked in stone the
dissembling sandscript.

II.

"Riveted to some detail of the desert the eye
fills with tears."

ANAGRAM FOR BECKETT

the sun came up because it had to
eat up mad sin etch abused touch
see that unmuted phobia accuse
a human suet-post ice-cube death

LIGHT CROSSES

the precut
furrows.

Lines, volumes,
surface.

Sod crumbles,
the mistreaded eye

trundles,
after.

WEBS

of linked
channels, weeps:
pierced quadr-
angles, banked stream
undercutting the field,
as water
unites, op-
poses, divides.

DENUDED

bulk of cirques
abraded low-
landesert and pediplain
surround the empty constant spiralling
of dust, encircling silver drifts of
beams
In citiaseams'
parallel lightlines
manifaults hatch the surface
of the seen Unbearably chill
was that noon or noun
that heat of magic
freeways.

EXTENSIONS

in the tempest of distance
the land's breadth explicated
to shadow scale, chiaroscuro
of crenellated gullies. Sand-
sheets ribbed with glyphs
abraded by slow currents, ef-
faced by sudden storms.
Stones from lopped cliffs
clouds turning in gallow sky
battlements already ruin.
Anoxic desert breath reciting
to itself, speech piercing void
known through the pores
an alphabet to be denied.
Body's witness to intention
not its own, in channels layers
flows that agitated murmur
not of meaning, yet understood
in making absence spell not death.
And tufts of emerald sage reach thin
runners underground, roots feathering
each gradient of darkness
as all emergency refurbishes
the palette of survival—
catching life as it dries
to ochre and to ash, to clay.

III.

"earth sky a few creatures in the light"

NO WEATHER

or sound no face lastingly
set in the memory and still
here so naked and helpless
a : one filament of life
tapering to a single point
all pith and powdery spore
like a streamer drawn across
flattened leafstalks torn
from a dim utopia of vision
that faint glow in the vacuum
that surrounds the animal form

CEDAR—

tonguedancer,
from sense-space fallen,
thoughtless, nihilive: my

no-name summons,
breathless recur to
the hand-carved shell.

ALWAYS

the one-
more.

these roads, these
symbols of roads.

split, the tongues of they
tear at empty space,
erase night

as one word received,
recedes, white
horizon.

AFTERING

the blue
breath of
syllables, ab-
sconding. Still
as if voice uncar-
rying, carried a
voice beyond.