She Tries Her Tongue; Her Silence Softly Breaks*

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All Things are alter'd, nothing is destroyed

Ovid, *The Metamorphoses* (tr. John Dryden)

the me and mine of parents
the we and us of brother and sister
the tribe of belongings small and separate,
when gone.......
on these exact places of exacted grief
i placed mint-fresh grief coins
sealed the eyes with certain and final;
in such an equation of loss tears became
a quantity of minus.
with the fate of a slingshot stone
loosed from the catapult pronged double with history
and time on a trajectory of hurl and fling
to a state active with without and unknown
i came upon a future biblical with anticipation


It is important, when transplanting plants, that their roots not be exposed
to the air longer than is necessary. Failure to observe this caution will result
in the plant dying eventually, if not immediately. When transplanting, you
may notice a gently ripping sound as the roots are torn away from the soil.
This is to be expected: for the plant, transplanting is always a painful
process.

*The Practical Guide to Gardening*
seek search and uproot
the forget and remember of root words
uncharged
pathways electric with the exposed lie
circuits of dead
currents of still
words
synapses of unuse and gone
words
wordless
in the eden of first sin
and
naked

1. The limbic system along with the hypothalamus, hippocampus, amygdala, fornix and olfactory bulb rule the basic drives for food, sex and survival.
2. The limbic system or primitive cortex plays a significant role in emotions; it is indispensable in the formation of memory.
3. Human memory may be either immediate, short-term, or long-term.
4. The cerebral cortex is the storehouse of our memory - it makes us human.
5. What we choose to store in our long-term memory is closely linked to our emotions.
6. Memory is essential to human survival.

Facts to Live By and Die

without the begin of word
grist in a grind and pound of together
in the absence of a past mortared with

the harsh husk of a future-present begins
and the big bad wolf came and said,
"Little pig, little pig let me in."
"No, no, not by the hair of my chinny chin chin."
"Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in."
The wolf huffed and puffed and he huffed and puffed and couldn't blow the house down.

The first pig built his house of straw; the second of wood. Did the third pig buy his bricks or was he given them, and why? Where did he get his money to buy his bricks with?
Straw, wood or brick. The moral of this tale is that the right choice of materials secures safety.

How to Build Your House Safe and Right

oath moan mutter chant
time grieves the dimension of other
babble curse chortle sing
turns on its axis of silence
praise-song poem ululation utterance
one song would bridge the finite in silence
syllable vocable vowel consonant
one word erect the infinite in memory

....... the day of Pentecost was fully come,....
And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues....
.... every man heard them speak in his own language.

absencelosstears laughter grief
in any language
the same
only larger
for the silence
monstrosity
obscenity
tongueless wonder
blackened stump of a tongue
torn
out
withered
petrified
burnt
on the pyres of silence
a mother's child foreign
made
by a tongue that cursed
the absence
in loss
tears laughter grief
in the word

and if a stranger were to touch her newborn child, the mother will have nothing to do with it. She can smell the stink of the stranger on her child and will refuse to suckle it, believing the spirit of her child to be taken by the stranger.

De Matribus et Advenis*

* On Mothers and Strangers
I do not presume to come to this thy table
father forgive
most merciful father, trusting in my own righteousness
foreign father forgive
but in they manifold and great mercies.
forgive her me this foreigness
I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table
forgive me this dumbness
but thou art the same Lord, whose property
this lack of tongue forgive
is always to have mercy upon
this
thisthisand this disfigurement this dis
memberment this verbal crippling this
absence of voice that wouldnotcould not
sing

Kyrie eleison
Christos eleison
Kyrie eleison

Is it in the nature of God to forgive himself -
For his sin?

The Book of unCommon Prayer
Hold we to the centre of remembrance
that forgets the never that severs
word from the source
and never forgets the witness
of broken utterances that passed
before and now
breaks the culture of silence
in the ordeal of testimony;
in the history of circles
each point lies
along the circumference
diameter or radius
each word creates a centre
circumscribed by memory... and history
waits at rest always
still at the centre

*history*, *memory*

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*history, n* - L. *historia*, 'narrative, story, narration, account', from Gk. ... 'learning by inquiry, knowledge obtained by inquiry; account of one's inquiries; narration, historical narrative; history....

*memory, n* - ME. *mémoire*, fr OF. *memorie* (F. Mémoire), fr. L. *memoria*, 'memory', fr. *memor*, 'mindful', which stands for *me-mor*, and derives from I.-E. *mer-*mer-, reduplication of base *(s)mer-*, to care for, be anxious about, think, consider, remember'.

Cp. *memoir*, *commemorate*, *remember*. Cp. also *martyr*, *mourn*, *smriti*.

*Klein's Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the English Language.*

*Without memory can there be history?*
That body should speak
When silence is,
Limbs dance
The grief sealed in memory;
That body might become tongue
Tempered to speech
And where the latter falters
Paper with its words
The crack of silence;
That skin become
Slur slide susurration
Polyphony and rhythm - the drum;
The emptied skull a gourd
filled
With the potions of determine
That compel the split in bridge
Between speech and magic
Force and word;
The harp of accompaniment the ribcage
Strung with the taut in gut;
Flute or drumstick the bones.
When silence is
Abdication of word tongue and lip
Ashes of once in what was
....... Silence
Song word speech
Might I . . . like Philomela . . . sing
continue
over
into

....... pure utterance

....... and on the day of the great salmon run, the first salmon caught is cooked and shared among the elders - men and women. The oldest women of the tribe, accompanied by the youngest girl-child, then goes down to the waters and returns the skeleton whole to its watery home. This is the way the tribe ensures future gifts of winter food.

Of Women, Wisdom, Fishes and Men