

counter position: an interweavement in nine parts

I

again, then again came un-
wring, apart, always, bare
am murmur am: as if
wounded, raw
under cilia,
raw

II

– perceive:
furrow –

just at the opencuts: set free
to stand, sense, to drift now am: pitching to you
through the: fissures hear – you speak of
waste heaps, of scree of: implanting, the
windrose, -wheel speak of: rotating, glistening
rotor blade you say – it: pitches, now, pitch, as a
veined arm, a wing plows: its back, engraves furrows
through earth-smoke through dead nettle fields
and at last: on the shoulder blade dulls down

III

– free from:
entrench –

as if wanting to enter: the wild growth
to: wind, towards, to: spread,
feather out as: to grow into: retina, network
for furrows for seams and: fully to
spin up, grow nervose so
trembling a: trammeled view – see how you
loom you speak – as if
worked-in, wound-in: to the
nerve-fiber thicket of dead, of deaf nettle of
earth-smoke; a throbbing – forget –
don't listen, perceive any more

IV

– encounter:
escape –

but feel only: stagger, well, murmur – a *murmuring stream*, so it's called – not to know, just
to: plunge down toward finally
to: trickle to drip start to spill over
pinechoked till: deep in the lowland,
– the gullet, it's called – as if: sluiced
from the: spit- to the streambed – *run-off* – exuded, poured out into
pitching flowing, meandering veins
fray – towards: waterstop – jugal dam,
gurgle and sticks stutters catches: on snares of
hornwort, toothed, flooding the: clearcut mouth

V

– stillstand –

and yet: remember, no i'm not forgetting
aquiculture it's called i see hanging there
watersteps carved out for carp, for trout
breeding sit drained out all winter
the shore the mud stiffen they: glisten in frost
and i, naturally, don't stand there long

VI

– befall:
cross –

at last: fallen, to be as if
colonized covered the: cavity, oral,
armpits frosted over with: reed grass with
air, so they, stiffen – white: throb still –
spores: already swarming the
wide-open eyes, only: gaping am
splayed out, the granular limbs so encircled: by frost
by the riverbank already fit, so to speak,
lose – just pores now – lie far from my mind

VII

– refuse:
nestle to –

remain still and: want to forget to
see to hear just: murmurs now
many times out from the mouth rootstock,
palpable: mud in the pores
they: scale off slough – a nettle rash,
nascent – the weeping sores
want to run thick turn: to rind turn to bark
in the wind from the: tundra i murmur
northeast landmass – skin patches turning
to steppe – they: speak i spit i
into my opencuts, wounds, goal:
lungwort for hair

VIII

– fever: find re-
fuge –

fully: air masses, frequently
swept across weeping (..) wing-
strokes straight: into the cilia,
stay, hardly moving: scraped out
so brittle, that even the: pleura dries,
pliant, coated in algae rind
grown thick with *crustaceous lichens*
in: *hunger symbiosis* with them
– so it's called – dry, stitched to the
ground: they multiply break from even
a featherweight fingerstroke – grow multi-
partite – and claw tight, am gaping, into the
abdominal wall

IX

finally, startled from sleep, find:
the larynx deseeded is
hollowed: hands palpate,
it: fumbling, feathered, from
ribcage entwine themselves
deeper into the: reed swallow: light,
gurgling, darkly well, dimly
they: keel towards hulls towards hollows
weave: cavities, gorges of
stalks of fingers of (..)
so to speak: towards the bittern – nesting place,
in the *singing reed* so it's called – grow
entangled as – flotsam and jetsam – stitched
up to the: glottis rustling
almost trembling i hear you again: say
song you say song – what is: song

*Occasionally sound is also produced
[..] by inhaling (ingressive speech).
E.g. an ingressive [f] is sometimes
used to express a sudden, mild pain.*

R. Arnold / K. Hansen

marsyas, encircled

long after:

as if the breath: rattled, caught on and
the capsules the seeds at the borders they crack
they burst open they: spray, scatter deeper, from
waterline, over the land

before:

the tongue edges the palate in whispers
in cooing in trilling in (..) in the heat so
it blurs – cut grass –
whirs through – an echo – the wind

1

shaded – embrace

marsyas, is: hung on the stem
to be flayed, is clawed to the branch – hide –
is: stretched, so the shadows they flee from the
armpits, soon: split by the knife
– breath held – to see: how it opens the dimly
imagined: to streams of air and of light

–

so: fingers, they feel, want to: weave through the bark
scrapes the nails: breaks as if it were: loosed towards the light
– [ghh] – ripped, towards the rind, and beneath it the blind – [ss] –
sprouting wood swells still deepens – in silence – the darkening seed

–

2

reach through – remembered

–

just: rustles through: shoots through the spurge laurel sprouting stalks,
buds: early in the year rosy the: chalices opened – so feverish
bursts: on the fingers – [ff] – hermaphrodite – [pff] – featherlike, laced
through by light that: congeals into skin fiber, stonefruit

–

3

cleanly: cut

him: to see him his: limbs glint they
glisten in sweat – cramped – in front of the trunk,
salt will bloom in the: armpit, white,
will be stiff, crystalline, then, when his skin
has been shriveled to parchment by wind beside it
hangs – fibrous – the carved flesh

–

so: reedy the: leafblades they spread from the swampground the: sedges the
sawgrass that sways: frozen spikelets – [kh] – prick so they
cut that cuts – [tsh] – hisses: whispers through –
corneal layer the finger buds – [pss] – scores itself: in the wind

–

4

broken out – run out

streaked, the swellings, the fibers released from the inside
enwombed: so they wanted to germinate, prickle-cells,
corneocytes: sprouting layers, they wanted to hem in
what will be named: countable strands, they: bud
on bone ridges: on thorny outgrowths and will
need to be delevated and: should be called rhomboid, trapezius,
abdominal muscles, to lift and to lower the ribs
underneath is: the lung, now laid bare, but still bundled,
pressed under the air

–

stripped: sharp-cornered, leaves: from the paniced ribbed stem they
tremble – [tff] – between the fingers they swing in the wind pipe they
shake split they sever: the airstream – [ssh] – whisper the
reedbed like lips like the panicles parts then spills: back into one

–

5

whirling – lay waste

trembles – the air is flown through is swept through by the birds –
finger through trace the darkening furrows serratus
abdominal muscles – they: feather, enfeather
the ribs are: like wings whirl and stream the: eyes wander
there press lose themselves in the swirl in the snare in the shudder the (..)
visibly driven stops short: this precipitous wound
the mouth: deepened still silent
– a sudden karst – dries out

meanwhile:
is fully divested he – finally – plunges: towards it
and it wells out it gurgles it screeches out from him – a moan –
and for now just: unbound by the horror turns marsyas turns –
finally: flows out and into the waiting land
does not slip out he: springs forth

From
engulf – enkindle.
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Translated from the German by Kurt Beals.