

## Constellating I

A body / entering / its last form / of becoming:  
An oak dies / and remains / embedded / in the land-  
scape, hundreds / of years more. / Does the tree / dream of wings  
that inhabit it? / The dead & / persisting body / condenses time  
into a point / in space / where we can see / what the forest gives,  
what the forest takes. / (*metsä antaa / metsä ottaa*)<sup>1</sup> / Inside the body  
chemical reactions / produce light. / Which means / the rest of  
the body is dark. / Then I speak / of my emotions / as dark, but  
not figuratively. / Even night is / full of birds. / Light is made  
by matter / destroying itself. / The light we / inhabit is a flame,  
we burn in it, / all the time. / Silence is the source / to which language  
must constantly / return / to be recreated.

From which the body / turns & returns. / Towards fields / of recent darkness  
a bird flies / away in reverse, / sky shivering / in the water.  
The bird is / the metaphor / & its failure. / Always, it falls  
into silence. / Say the name of / the bird who / carries the night.<sup>2</sup>  
The names of / the stars, one / in every language.

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<sup>1</sup>. The Finnish word for forest—*metsä*—earlier meant an edge, a boundary, something far away. (*Tree People*).

<sup>2</sup>. Such is the bird Kâmeç of the Avesta..." (*Zoological Mythology: Volume 2* by Angelo de Gubernatis, p. 176).