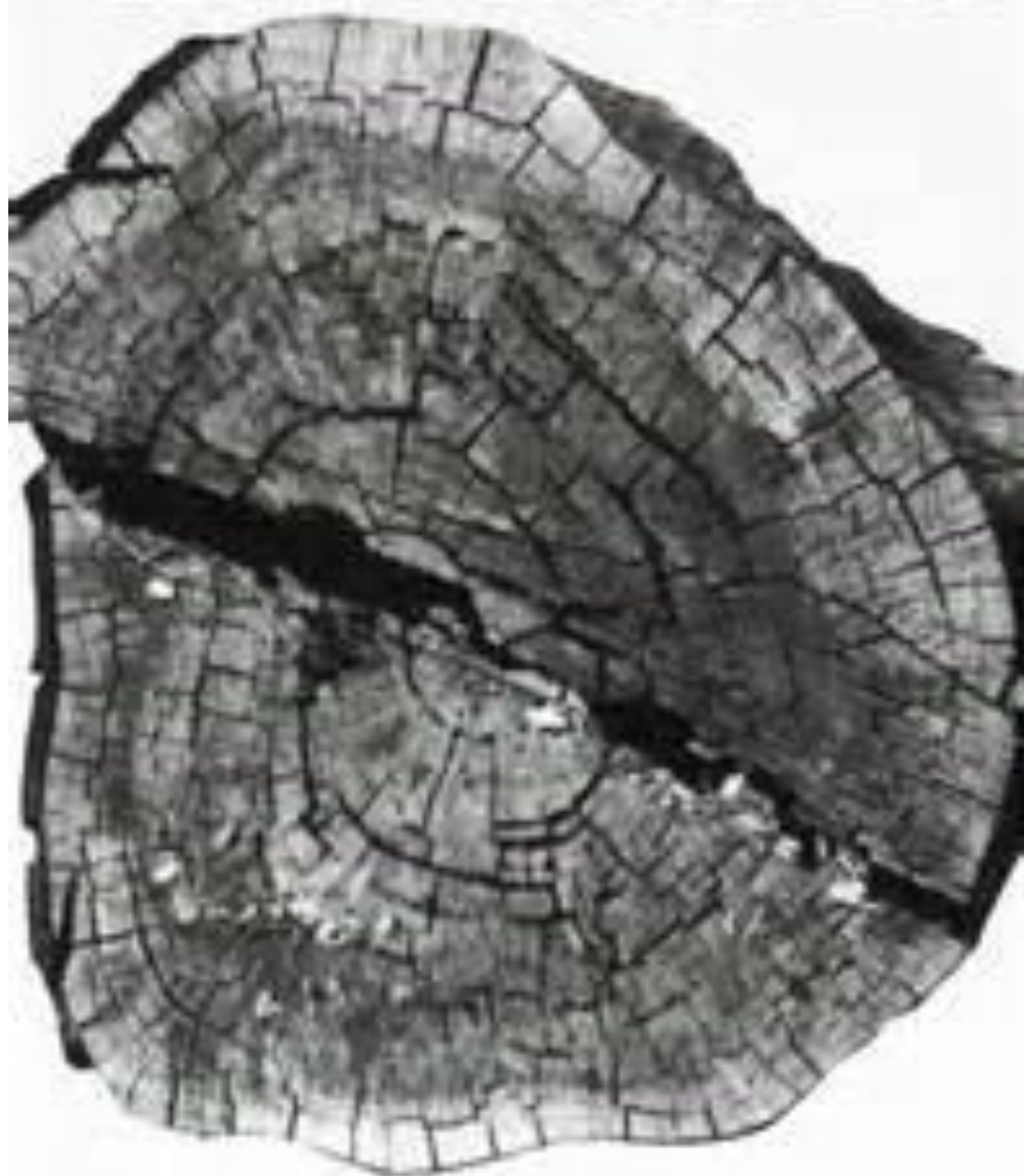


GARY SNYDER



MYTHS & TEXTS

Gary Snyder, *Myths & Texts* (New York: Totem Press, 1960; repr. New York: New Directions, 1978).

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LOGGING

1 The morning star is not a star

1 The morning star is not a star
2 Two seedling fir, one died
3 lo, lo,
4 Girdled in wistaria
5 Wound with ivy
6 "The May Queen
7 Is the survival of
8 A pre-human
9 Rutting season"

10 The year spins
11 Pleiades sing to their rest
12 at San Francisco
13 dream
14 dream
15 Green comes out of the ground
16 Birds squabble
17 Young girls run mad with the pine bough,
18 lo

2 The ancient forests of China logged

But ye shall destroy their altars,
break their images, and cut down their groves.

---Exodus 34:13

1 The ancient forests of China logged
2 and the hills slipped into the Yellow Sea.
3 Squared beams, log dogs,
4 on a tamped-earth sill.

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5 San Francisco 2x4s
6 were the woods around Seattle:
7 Someone killed and someone built, a house,
8 a forest, wrecked or raised
9 All America hung on a hook
10 & burned by men, in their own praise.

11 Snow on fresh stumps and brush-piles.
12 The generator starts and rumbles
13 in the frosty dawn
14 I wake from bitter dreams,
15 Rise and build a fire,
16 Pull on and lace the stiff cold boots
17 Eat huge flapjacks by a gloomy Swede
18 In splintery cookhouse light
19 grab my tin pisspot hat
20 Ride off to the show in a crummy-truck
21 And start the Cat.

22 "Pines grasp the clouds with iron claws
23 like dragons rising from sleep"
24 250,000 board-feet a day

25 If both Cats keep working
26 & nobody gets hurt

3 Lodgepole Pine: the wonderful reproductive

1 "Lodgepole Pine: the wonderful reproductive
2 power of this species on areas over which its
3 stand has been killed by fire is dependent upon
4 the ability of the closed cones to endure a fire
5 which kills the tree without injuring its seed.
6 After fire, the cones open and shed their seeds
7 on the bared ground and a new growth springs up."

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8 Stood straight
9 holding the choker high
10 As the Cat swung back the arch
11 piss-firs falling,
12 Limbs snapping on the tin hat
13 bright D caught on
14 Swinging butt-hooks
15 ringing against cold steel.

16 Hsü Fang lived on leeks and pumpkins.
17 Goosefoot,
18 wild herbs,
19 fields lying fallow!

20 But it's hard to farm
21 Between the stumps:
22 The cows get thin, the milk tastes funny,
23 The kids grow up and go to college
24 They don't come back.
25 the little fir-trees do

26 Rocks the same blue as sky
27 Only icefields, a mile up,
28 are the mountain

- 29 Hovering over ten thousand acres
- 30 Of young fir.

4 Pines, under pines

- 1 Pines, under pines,
2 Seami Motokiyo
3 The Doer stamps his foot.
4 A thousand board-feet
5 Bucked, skidded, loaded---
6 (Takasago, Ise) float in a mill pond;
7 A thousand years dancing
8 Flies in the saw kerf.
- 9 Cliff by Tomales Bay
10 Seal's slick head
11 head shoulders breasts
12 glowing in night saltwater
13 Skitter of fish, and above, behind the pines,
14 Bear grunts, stalking the Pole-star.
- 15 Foot-whack on polished boards
16 Slide and stop; drum-thump.
17 "Today's wind moves in the pines"
18 falling
19 And skidding the red-bark pine.
20 Clouds over Olallie Butte
21 Scatter rain on the Schoolie flat.
22 A small bear slips out the wet brush
23 crosses the creek
24 Seami, Kwanami,
25 Gone too.
26 Through the pines.

5 Again the ancient, meaningless]

1 Again the ancient, meaningless
2 Abstractions of the educated mind.
3 wet feet and the campfire out.
4 Drop a mouthful of useless words.
5 ---The book's in the crapper
6 They're up to the part on Ethics now

7 skidding logs in pine-flat heat
8 long summer sun
9 the flax bag sweet
10 Summer professors
11 elsewhere meet
12 Indiana? Seattle? Ann Arbor?
13 bug clack in sage
14 Sudden rumble of wheels on cattle-guard rails.
15 hitching & hiking
16 looking for work.

17 "We rule you" all crownéd or be-Homburged heads
18 "We fool you" those guys with Ph.D.s
19 "We eat for you" you
20 "We work for you" who?
21 a big picture of K. Marx with an axe,
22 "Where I cut off one it will never grow again."
23 O Karl would it were true
24 I'd put my saw to work for you
25 & the wicked social tree would fall right down.

26 (The only logging we'll do here is trees
27 And do it quick, with big trucks and machines)
28 "That Cat wobbles like a sick whore"
29 So we lay on our backs tinkering
30 all afternoon
31 The trees and the logs stood still
32 It was so quiet we could hear the birds.

6 In that year, 1914, we lived on the farm

1 "In that year, 1914, we lived on the farm
2 And the relatives lived with us.
3 A banner year for wild blackberries
4 Dad was crazy about wild blackberries
5 No berries like that now.
6 You know Kitsap County was logged before
7 The turn of the century---it was easiest of all,
8 Close to water, virgin timber,
9 When I was a kid walking about in the
10 Stumpland, wherever you'd go a skidroad
11 Puncheon, all overgrown.
12 We went up one like that, fighting our way through
13 To its end near the top of a hill:
14 For some reason wild blackberries
15 Grew best there. We took off one morning
16 Right after milking: rode the horses
17 To a valley we'd been to once before
18 Hunting berries, and hitched the horses.
19 About a quarter mile up the old road
20 We found the full ripe of berrytime---
21 And with only two pails---so we
22 Went back home, got Mother and Ruth,
23 And filled lots of pails. Mother sent letters
24 To all the relatives in Seattle:
25 Effie, Aunt Lucy, Bill Moore,
26 Forrest, Edna, six or eight, they all came
27 Out to the farm, and we didn't take pails
28 Then: we took copper clothes-boilers,
29 Wash-tubs, buckets, and all went picking.
30 We were canning for three days."

7 Felix Baran

1 Felix Baran
2 Hugo Gerlot
3 Gustav Johnson
4 John Looney
5 Abraham Rabinowitz
6 Shot down on the steamer Verona
7 For the shingle-weavers of Everett
8 the Everett Massacre November 5 1916

9 Ed McCullough, a logger for thirty-five years
10 Reduced by the advent of chainsaws
11 To chopping off knots at the landing:
12 "I don't have to take this kind of shit,
13 Another twenty years
14 and I'll tell 'em to shove it"
15 (he was sixty-five then)
16 In 1934 they lived in shanties
17 At Hooverville, Sullivan's Gulch.
18 When the Portland-bound train came through
19 The trainmen tossed off coal.

20 "Thousands of boys shot and beat up
21 For wanting a good bed, good pay,
22 decent food, in the woods---"
23 No one knew what it meant:
24 "Soldiers of Discontent."

8 Each dawn is clear

- 1 Each dawn is clear
- 2 Cold air bites the throat.
- 3 Thick frost on the pine bough
- 4 Leaps from the tree
- 5 snapped by the diesel

- 6 Drifts and glitters in the
- 7 horizontal sun.
- 8 In the frozen grass
- 9 smoking boulders
- 10 ground by steel tracks.
- 11 In the frozen grass
- 12 wild horses stand
- 13 beyond a row of pines.
- 14 The D8 tears through piss-fir,
- 15 Scrapes the seed-pine
- 16 chipmunks flee,
- 17 A black ant carries an egg
- 18 Aimlessly from the battered ground.
- 19 Yellowjackets swarm and circle
- 20 Above the crushed dead log, their home.
- 21 Pitch oozes from barked
- 22 trees still standing,
- 23 Mashed bushes make strange smells.
- 24 Lodgepole pines are brittle.
- 25 Camprobbers flutter to watch.

- 26 A few stumps, drying piles of brush;
- 27 Under the thin duff, a toe-scrape down
- 28 Black lava of a late flow.
- 29 Leaves stripped from thornapple
- 30 Taurus by nightfall.

9 [Headed home, hitch-hiking]

1 Headed home, hitch-hiking
2 leaving mountains behind
3 where all Friday in sunlight
4 fighting flies fixed phone line
5 high on the lake trail,
6 dreaming of home,
7 by night to my girl and a late bath.
8 she came in naked to the tub
9 her breasts hung glistening
10 and she scrubbed my back.
11 we made love night-long.
12 she was unhappy alone.
13 all Sunday softly talked,
14 I left, two hundred miles
15 hitching back to work.

10 [A ghost logger wanders a shadow]

1 A ghost logger wanders a shadow
2 In the early evening, boots squeak
3 With the cicada, the fleas
4 Nest warm in his blanket-roll
5 Berrybrambles catch at the staggd pants
6 He stumbles up the rotted puncheon road
7 There is a logging camp
8 Somewhere in there among the alders
9 Berries and high rotting stumps
10 Bindlestiff with a wooden bowl
11 (The poor bastards at Nemi in the same boat)
12 What old Seattle skidroad did he walk from
13 Fifty years too late, and all his
14 money spent?

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15 Dogfish and Shark oil
16 Greasing the skids.
17 "Man is the heart of the universe
18 the upshot of the five elements,
19 born to enjoy food and color and noise ..."
20 Get off my back Confucius
21 There's enough noise now.
22 What bothers me is all those stumps:
23 What did they do with the wood?
24 Them Xtians out to save souls and grab land
25 "They'd steal Christ off the cross
26 if he wasn't nailed on"
27 The last decent carpentry
28 Ever done by Jews.

11 [Ray Wells, a big Nisqually, and I]

1 Ray Wells, a big Nisqually, and I
2 each set a choker
3 On the butt-logs of two big Larch
4 In a thornapple thicket and a swamp.
5 waiting for the Cat to come back,
6 "Yesterday we gelded some ponies
7 "My father-in-law cut the skin on the balls
8 "He's a Wasco and don't speak English
9 "He grabs a handful of tubes and somehow
10 cuts the right ones.
11 "The ball jumps out, the horse screams
12 "But he's all tied up.
13 The Caterpillar clanked back down.
14 In the shadow of that racket
15 diesel and iron tread
16 I thought of Ray Wells' tipi out on the sage flat
17 The gelded ponies
18 Healing and grazing in the dead white heat.

12 [A green limb hangs in the crotch]

1 A green limb hangs in the crotch
2 Of a silver snag,
3 Above the Cats,
4 the skidders and thudding brush,
5 Hundreds of butterflies
6 Flit through the pines.
7 "You shall live in square
8 gray houses in a barren land
9 and beside those square gray
10 houses you shall starve."
11 ---Drinkswater. Who saw a vision
12 At the high and lonely center of the earth:
13 Where Crazy Horse
14 went to watch the Morning Star,
15 & the four-legged people, the creeping people,
16 The standing people and the flying people
17 Know how to talk.
18 I ought to have eaten
19 Whale tongue with them.
20 they keep saying I used to be a human being
21 "He-at-whose-voice-the-Ravens-sit-on-the-sea."
22 Sea-foam washing the limpets and barnacles
23 Rattling the gravel beach
24 Salmon up creek, bear on the bank,
25 Wild ducks over the mountains weaving
26 In a long south flight, the land of
27 Sea and fir tree with the pine-dry
28 Sage-flat country to the east.
29 Han Shan could have lived here,
30 & no scissorbill stooge of the
31 Emperor would have come trying to steal
32 his last poor shred of sense.

[Page 14]

33 On the wooded coast, eating oysters
34 Looking off toward China and Japan
35 "If you're gonna work these woods
36 Don't want nothing
37 That can't be left out in the rain---"

13 [T 36N R 16E S 25]

1 T 36N R 16E S 25
2 Is burning. Far to the west.
3 A north creek side,
4 flame to the crowns
5 Sweeping a hillside bare---
6 in another district,
7 On a different drainage.

8 Smoke higher than clouds
9 Turning the late sun red.

10 Cumulus, blowing north
11 high cirrus
12 Drifting east,
13 smoke
14 Filling the west.

15 The crews have departed,
16 And I am not concerned.

14 [The groves are down]

- 1 The groves are down
 - 2 cut down
 - 3 Groves of Ahab, of Cybele
 - 4 Pine trees, knobbed twigs
 - 5 thick cone and seed
 - 6 Cybele's tree this, sacred in groves
 - 7 Pine of Seami, cedar of Haida
 - 8 Cut down by the prophets of Israel
 - 9 the fairies of Athens
 - 10 the thugs of Rome
 - 11 both ancient and modern;
 - 12 Cut down to make room for the suburbs
 - 13 Bulldozed by Luther and Weyerhaeuser
 - 14 Crosscut and chainsaw
 - 15 squareheads and finns
 - 16 high-lead and cat-skidding
 - 17 Trees down
 - 18 Creeks choked, trout killed, roads.
-
- 19 Sawmill temples of Jehovah.
 - 20 Squat black burners 100 feet high
 - 21 Sending the smoke of our burnt
 - 22 Live sap and leaf
 - 23 To his eager nose.

15 [Lodgepole]

1 Lodgepole
2 cone/seed waits for fire
3 And then thin forests of silver-gray.
4 in the void
5 a pine cone falls
6 Pursued by squirrels
7 What mad pursuit! What struggle to escape!

8 Her body a seedpod
9 Open to the wind
10 "A seed pod void of seed
11 We had no meeting together"
12 so you and I must wait
13 Until the next blaze
14 Of the world, the universe,
15 Millions of worlds, burning
16 ---oh let it lie.

17 Shiva at the end of the kalpa:
18 Rock-fat, hill-flesh, gone in a whiff.
19 Men who hire men to cut groves
20 Kill snakes, build cities, pave fields,
21 Believe in god, but can't
22 Believe their own senses
23 Let alone Gautama. Let them lie.

24 Pine sleeps, cedar splits straight
25 Flowers crack the pavement.
26 Pa-ta Shan-jen
27 (A painter who watched Ming fall)
28 lived in a tree:
29 "The brush
30 May paint the mountains and streams
31 Though the territory is lost."

HUNTING

1 first shaman song

- 1 In the village of the dead,
2 Kicked loose bones
3 ate pitch of a drift log
4 (whale fat)
5 Nettles and cottonwood. Grass smokes
6 in the sun
7 Logs turn in the river
8 sand scorches the feet.
- 9 Two days without food, trucks roll past
10 in dust and light, rivers
11 are rising.
12 Thaw in the high meadows. Move west in July.
- 13 Soft oysters rot now, between tides
14 the flats stink.
- 15 I sit without thoughts by the log-road
16 Hatching a new myth
17 watching the waterdogs
18 the last truck gone.

2 [Atok: creeping]

1 Atok: creeping
2 Maupok: waiting
3 to hunt seals.

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4 The sea hunter
5 watching the whirling seabirds on the rocks
6 The mountain hunter
7 horn-tipped shaft on a snowslope
8 edging across cliffs for a shot at goat
9 "Upon the lower slopes of the mountain,
10 on the cover, we find the sculptured forms
11 of animals apparently lying dead in the
12 wilderness" thus Fenellosa
13 On the pottery of Shang.

14 It's a shame I didn't kill you,
15 Yang Kuei Fei,
16 Cut down in the old apartment
17 Left to bleed between the bookcase and the wall,
18 I'd hunt you still, trail you from town to town.
19 But you change shape.
20 death's a new shape,
21 Maybe flayed you'd be true
22 But it wouldn't be through.

23 "You who live with your grandmother
24 I'll trail you with dogs
25 And crush you in my mouth."
26 ---not that we're cruel---
27 But a man's got to eat

3 this poem is for birds

1 Birds in a whirl, drift to the rooftops
2 Kite dip, swing to the seabank fogroll
3 Form: dots in air changing line from line,
4 the future defined.

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5 Brush back smoke from the eyes,
6 dust from the mind,
7 With the wing-feather fan of an eagle.
8 A hawk drifts into the far sky.
9 A marmot whistles across huge rocks.
10 Rain on the California hills.
11 Mussels clamp to sea-boulders
12 Sucking the Spring tides

13 Rain soaks the tan stubble
14 Fields full of ducks

15 Rain sweeps the Eucalyptus
16 Strange pines on the coast
17 needles two to the bunch
18 The whole sky whips in the wind
19 Vaux Swifts
20 Flying before the storm
21 Arcing close hear sharp wing-whistle
22 Sickle-bird
23 pale gray
24 sheets of rain slowly shifting
25 down from the clouds,
26 Black Swifts.
27 ---the swifts cry
28 As they shoot by, See or go blind!

4 [The swallow-shell that eases birth]

1 The swallow-shell that eases birth
2 brought from the south by Hummingbird.
3 "We pull out the seagrass, the seagrass,
4 the seagrass, and it drifts away"
5 ---song of the geese.

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6 "My children
7 their father was a log"
8 ---song of the pheasant.
9 The white gulls south of Victoria
10 catch tossed crumbs in midair.
11 When anyone hears the Catbird
12 he gets lonesome.
13 San Francisco, "Mulberry Harbor"
14 eating the speckled sea-bird eggs
15 of the Farallones.
16 Driving sand sends swallows flying,
17 warm mud puts the ducks to sleep.
18 Magical birds: Phoenix, hawk, and crane
19 owl and gander, wren,
20 Bright eyes aglow: Polishing clawfoot
21 with talons spread, subtle birds
22 Wheel and go, leaving air in shreds
23 black beaks shine in gray haze.
24 Brushed by the hawk's wing
25 of vision.

26 ---They were arguing about the noise
27 Made by the Golden-eye Duck.
28 Some said the whistling sound
29 Was made by its nose, some said
30 No, by the wings.
31 "Have it your way.
32 We will leave you forever."
33 They went upriver:

34 The Flathead tribe.

35 Raven

36 on a roost of furs

37 No bird in a bird-book,

38 black as the sun.

5 the making of the horn spoon

- 1 The head of the mountain-goat is in the corner
- 2 for the making of the horn spoon,
- 3 The black spoon. When fire's heat strikes it
- 4 turn the head
- 5 Four days and hair pulls loose
- 6 horn twists free.
- 7 Hand-adze, straightknife, notch the horn-base;
- 8 rub with rough sandstone
- 9 Shave down smooth. Split two cedar sticks
- 10 when water boils plunge the horn,
- 11 Tie mouth between sticks in the spoon shape
- 12 rub with dried dogfish skin.
- 13 It will be black and smooth,
- 14 a spoon.

- 15 Wa, laEm gwala ts!ololaqe ka . ts!Enaqe laxeq.

34 Twelve species north of Mexico
35 Sucking their paws in the long winter
36 Tearing the high-strung caches down
37 Whining, crying, jacking off
38 (Odysseus was a bear)

39 Bear-cubs gnawing the soft tits
40 Teeth gritted, eyes screwed tight
41 but she let them.

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42 Til her brothers found the place
43 Chased her husband up the gorge
44 Cornered him in the rocks.
45 Song of the snared bear:
46 "Give me my belt.
47 "I am near death.
48 "I came from the mountain caves
49 "At the headwaters,
50 "The small streams there
51 "Are all dried up.

52 ---I think I'll go hunt bears.
53 "hunt bears?
54 Why shit Snyder,
55 You couldn't hit a bear in the ass
56 with a handful of rice!"

7 [All beaded with dew]

1 All beaded with dew
2 dawn grass runway
3 Open-eyed rabbits hang
4 dangle, loose feet in tall grass
5 From alder snares.
6 The spider is building a morning-web
7 From the snared rabbit's ear to the snare

8 down trail at sunrise
9 wet berry brush
10 spiderwebs in the eyes
11 Gray chunk rocks roll down
12 Splinter pines,
13 bark the firs,
14 rest in maple shade.

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15 I dance
16 On every swamp
17 sang the rabbit
18 once a hungry ghost
19 then a beast
20 who knows what next?

21 Salmon, deer, no pottery;
22 Summer and winter houses
23 Roots, berries, watertight baskets---
24 Our girls get layed by Coyote
25 We get along
26 just fine.
27 The Shuswap tribe.

8 this poem is for deer

1 "I dance on all the mountains
2 On five mountains, I have a dancing place
3 When they shoot at me I run
4 To my five mountains"

5 Missed a last shot
6 At the Buck, in twilight
7 So we came back sliding
8 On dry needles through cold pines.
9 Scared out a cottontail
10 Whipped up the winchester
11 Shot off its head.
12 The white body rolls and twitches
13 In the dark ravine
14 As we run down the hill to the car.
15 deer foot down scree

[Page 27]

16 Picasso's fawn, Issa's fawn,
17 Deer on the autumn mountain
18 Howling like a wise man
19 Stiff springy jumps down the snowfields
20 Head held back, forefeet out,
21 Balls tight in a tough hair sack
22 Keeping the human soul from care
23 on the autumn mountain
24 Standing in late sun, ear-flick
25 Tail-flick, gold mist of flies
26 Whirling from nostril to eyes.

27 Home by night
28 drunken eye

29 Still picks out Taurus
30 Low, and growing high:
31 four-point buck
32 Dancing in the headlights
33 on the lonely road
34 A mile past the mill-pond,
35 With the car stopped, shot
36 That wild silly blinded creature down.

37 Pull out the hot guts
38 with hard bare hands
39 While night-frost chills the tongue
40 and eye
41 The cold horn-bones.
42 The hunter's belt
43 just below the sky
44 Warm blood in the car trunk.
45 Deer-smell,
46 the limp tongue.

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47 Deer don't want to die for me.
48 I'll drink sea-water
49 Sleep on beach pebbles in the rain
50 Until the deer come down to die
51 in pity for my pain.

9 [Sealion, salmon, offshore---]

- 1 Sealion, salmon, offshore---
2 Salt-fuck desire driving flap fins
3 North, south, five thousand miles
4 Coast, and up creek, big seeds
5 Groping for inland womb.
- 6 Geese, ducks, swallows,
7 paths in the air
8 I am a frozen addled egg on the tundra
- 9 My petrel, snow-tongued
10 kiss her a brook her mouth
11 of smooth pebbles her tongue a bed
12 icewater flowing in that
13 Cavern dark, tongue drifts in the creek
14 ---blind fish
- 15 On the rainy boulders
16 On the bloody sandbar
17 I ate the spawned-out salmon
18 I went crazy
19 Covered with ashes
20 Gnawing the girls breasts
21 Marrying women to whales
22 Or dogs, I'm a priest too
23 I raped your wife
24 I'll eat your corpse

10 [Flung from demonic wombs]

1 Flung from demonic wombs
2 off to some new birth
3 A million shapes---just look in any
4 biology book.
5 And the hells below mind
6 where ghosts roam, the heavens
7 Above brain, where gods & angels play
8 an age or two
9 & they'll trade with you,
10 Who wants heaven?
11 rest homes like that
12 Scattered all through the galaxy.

13 "I kill everything
14 I fear nothing but wolves
15 From the mouth of the Cowlitz
16 to its source,
17 Only the wolves scare me,
18 I have a chief's tail"
19 ---Skunk.
20 "We carry deer-fawns in our mouths
21 We carry deer-fawns in our mouths
22 We have our faces blackened"
23 ---Wolf-song.
24 "If I were a baby seal
25 every time I came up
26 I'd head toward shore---"

11 songs for a four-crowned dancing hat

- 1 O Prajapati
- 2 You who floated on the sea
- 3 Hatched to godhead in the slime
- 4 Heated red and beaten for a bronze ritual bowl
- 5 The Boar!
- 6 Dripping boar emerged
- 7 On his tusk his treasure
- 8 Prajapati from the sea-depths:
- 9 Skewered body of the earth
- 10 Each time I carry you this way.

- 11 The year I wore my Raven skin
- 12 Dogfish ran. Too many berries on the hill
- 13 Grizzly fat and happy in the sun---
- 14 The little women, the fern women,
- 15 They have stopped crying now.
- 16 "What will you do with human beings?
- 17 Are you going to save the human beings?"
- 18 That was Southeast, they say.

12 [Out the Greywolf valley]

1 Out the Greywolf valley
2 in late afternoon
3 after eight days in the high meadows
4 hungry, and out of food,
5 the trail broke into a choked
6 clearing, apples grew gone wild
7 hung on one low bough by a hornet's nest.

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8 caught the drone in tall clover
9 lowland smell in the shadows
10 then picked a hard green one:
11 watched them swarm.
12 smell of the mountains still on me.
13 none stung.

13 [Now I'll also tell what food]

1 Now I'll also tell what food
2 we lived on then:

3 Mescal, yucca fruit, pinyon, acorns,
4 prickly pear, sumac berry, cactus,
5 spurge, dropseed, lip fern, corn,
6 mountain plants, wild potatoes, mesquite,
7 stems of yucca, tree-yucca flowers, chokecherries,
8 pitahaya cactus, honey of the ground-bee,
9 honey, honey of the bumblebee,
10 mulberries, angle-pod, salt, berries,
11 berries of the one-seeded juniper,
12 berries of the alligator-bark juniper,
13 wild cattle, mule deer, antelopes,
14 white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, doves, quail,
15 squirrels, robins, slate-colored juncoes,
16 song sparrows, wood rats, prairie dogs,
17 rabbits, peccaries, burros, mules, horses,
18 buffaloes, mountain sheep, and turtles.

14 [Buddha fed himself to tigers]

1 Buddha fed himself to tigers
2 & donated mountains of eyes
3 (through the years)
4 To the blind,
5 a mountain-lion
6 Once trailed me four miles
7 At night and no gun
8 It was awful, I didn't want to be ate
9 maybe we'll change.

10 Or make a net of your sister's cunt-hair
11 Catch the sun, and burn the world.

12 Where are you going now?
13 Shake hands.
14 Goodbye, George Bell ...
15 that was a Kwakiutl woman
16 singing goodbye to her man,
17 Victoria B.C., 1887

18 The mules are loaded
19 packs lashed with a vajra-hitch
20 the grass-eaters steam in the dawn
21 the workers are still asleep
22 light swings on the high cornice
23 on the chill side of the mountain, we
24 switchback
25 drink at the waterfall
26 start to climb
27 "Stalk lotuses
28 Burst through the rocks
29 And come up in sevens."

15 [First day of the world]

- 1 First day of the world.
- 2 White rock ridges
- 3 new born
- 4 Jay chatters the first time
- 5 Rolling a smoke by the campfire
- 6 New! never before.
- 7 bitter coffee, cold
- 8 Dawn wind, sun on the cliffs,
- 9 You'll find it in *Many old shoes*
- 10 High! high on poetry & mountains.

- 11 That silly ascetic Gautama
- 12 thought he knew something;
- 13 Maudgalyâyanapppknew hell
- 14 Knew every hell, from the
- 15 Cambrian to the Jurassic
- 16 He suffered in them all.

16 [How rare to be born a human being!]

1 How rare to be born a human being!
2 Wash him off with cedar-bark and milkweed
3 send the damned doctors home.
4 Baby, baby, noble baby
5 Noble-hearted baby

6 One hand up, one hand down
7 "I alone am the honored one"
8 Birth of the Buddha.
9 And the whole world-system trembled.
10 "If that baby really said that,
11 I'd cut him up and throw him to the dogs!"

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12 said Chao-chou the Zen Master. But
13 Chipmunks, gray squirrels, and
14 Golden-mantled ground squirrels
15 brought him each a nut.
16 Truth being the sweetest of flavors.

17 Girls would have in their arms
18 A wild gazelle or wild wolf-cubs
19 And give them their white milk,
20 those who had new-born infants home
21 Breasts still full.
22 Wearing a spotted fawnskin
23 sleeping under trees
24 bacchantes, drunk
25 On wine or truth, what you will,
26 Meaning: compassion.
27 Agents: man and beast, beasts
28 Got the buddha-nature
29 All but
30 Coyote.

BURNING

1 second shaman song

- 1 Squat in swamp shadows.
- 2 mosquitoes sting;
- 3 high light in cedar above.
- 4 Crouched in a dry vain frame
- 5 ---thirst for cold snow
- 6 ---green slime of bone marrow
- 7 Seawater fills each eye

- 8 Quivering in nerve and muscle
- 9 Hung in the pelvic cradle
- 10 Bones propped against roots
- 11 A blind flicker of nerve

- 12 Still hand moves out alone
- 13 Flowering and leafing
- 14 turning to quartz
- 15 Streaked rock congestion of karma
- 16 The long body of the swamp.
- 17 A mud-streaked thigh.

- 18 Dying carp biting air
- 19 in the damp grass,
- 20 River recedes. No matter.

- 21 Limp fish sleep in the weeds
- 22 The sun dries me as I dance

2 [One moves continually with the consciousness]

1 One moves continually with the consciousness
2 Of that other, totally alien, non-human:
3 Humming inside like a taut drum,
4 Carefully avoiding any direct thought of it,
5 Attentive to the real-world flesh and stone.

6 Intricate layers of emptiness
7 This only world, juggling forms
8 a hand, a breast, two clasped
9 Human tenderness scuttles
10 Down dry endless cycles
11 Forms within forms falling
12 clinging
13 Loosely, what's gone away?
14 ---love

15 In Spring the Avocado sheds dead leaves
16 Soft rattling through the Cherry greens
17 Bird at this moment
18 All these books
19 wearing a thin sweater
20 & no brassiere
21 in failing light
22 One glance, miles below
23 Bones & flesh knit in the rock
24 "have no regret---
25 chip chip
26 (sparrows)
27 & not a word about the void
28 To which one hand diddling
29 Cling

3 *Maudgalyâyana saw hell*

- 1 Under the shuddering eyelid
 - 2 Dreams gnawing the nerve-strings,
 - 3 The mind grabs and the shut eye sees:
 - 4 Down dimensions floating below sunlight,
 - 5 Worlds of the dead, Bardo, mind-worlds
 - 6 & horror of sunless cave-ritual
 - 7 Meeting conscious monk bums
 - 8 Blown on winds of karma from hell
 - 9 To endless changing hell,
 - 10 Life and death whipped
 - 11 On this froth of reality (wind & rain
 - 12 Realms human and full of desire) over the cold
 - 13 Hanging enormous unknown, below
 - 14 Art and History and all mankind living thoughts,
 - 15 Occult & witchcraft evils each all true.
 - 16 The thin edge of nature rising fragile
 - 17 And helpless with its love and sentient stone
 - 18 And flesh, above dark drug-death dreams.
-
- 19 Clouds I cannot lose, we cannot leave.
 - 20 We learn to love, horror accepted.
 - 21 Beyond, within, all normal beauties
 - 22 Of the science-conscious sex and love-receiving
 - 23 Day-to-day got vision of this sick
 - 24 Sparkling person at the inturned dreaming
 - 25 Blooming human mind
 - 26 Dropping it all, and opening the eyes.

4 *Maitreya the future Buddha*

- 1 He's out stuck in a bird's craw
- 2 last night
- 3 Wildcat vomited his pattern on the snow.

- 4 Who refused to learn to dance, refused
- 5 To kiss you long ago. You fed him berries
- 6 But fled, the red stain on his teeth;
- 7 And when he cried, finding the world a Wheel---
- 8 you only stole his rice,
- 9 Being so small and gray. He will not go,
- 10 But wait through fish scale, shale dust, bone
- 11 of hawk and marmot,
- 12 caught leaves in ice,
- 13 Til flung on a new net of atoms:
- 14 Snagged in flight
- 15 Leave you hang and quiver like a gong

- 16 Your empty happy body
- 17 Swarming in the light

5 *Jimson Weed*

1 Now both
2 Being persons---alive
3 We sit here
4 The wind
5 Whirls
6 "Don't kill it man,

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7 The roach is the best part"
8 still an incessant chatter
9 On Vulture Peak
10 Crack of dawn/ calor/canor/dulcor faugh

11 I hold it
12 I tell of it, standing
13 I look here
14 I look there
15 Standing
16 great limp mouth
17 hanging loose in air
18 quivers, turns in upon itself,
19 gone
20 with a diabolical laugh
21 The night bat
22 Rising flies, I tell it
23 I sing it

24 "Jesus was a great doctor, I guess he was
25 the best gambler in the United States"
26 At Hakwinyava
27 Imagine a dark house
28 Blue

6 [My clutch and your clutch]

1 My clutch and your clutch
2 batter the same bough
3 Elliptical, bird-light
4 stink of spilled wine.
5 Whirling hills, lost out of mind.

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6 When Red Hand came to the river he saw
7 a man sitting on the other side of the river
8 pointing with his arm. So Red Hand
9 sat and pointed with his arm until nightfall
10 when he suddenly realized that it was
11 only a dead tree with a stretched out limb
12 and he got up and crossed the river.

13 March wind
14 blows the bright dawn
15 apricot blossoms down.
16 salty bacon smoking on the stove
17 (sitting on Chao-chou's *wu*
18 my feet sleep)

19 Ananda, grieving all night in the square
20 gave up & went to bed & just then woke
21 The big trucks go by in the half-asleep night,
22 Ah, butterflies
23 Granite rots and crumbles
24 Warm seas & simple life slops on the ranges
25 Mayflies glitter for a day
26 Like Popes!

27 where the sword is kept sharp
28 the VOID
29 gnashes its teeth

7 [Face in the crook of her neck]

1 Face in the crook of her neck
2 felt throb of vein
3 Smooth skin, her cool breasts
4 All naked in the dawn

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5 "byrdes
6 sing forth from every bough"
7 where are they now
8 And dreamt I saw the Duke of Chou

9 The Mother whose body is the Universe
10 Whose breasts are Sun and Moon,
11 the statue of Prajna
12 From Java: the quiet smile,
13 The naked breasts.

14 "Will you still love me when my
15 breasts get big?"
16 the little girl said---

17 "Earthly Mothers and those who suck
18 the breasts of earthly mothers are mortal---
19 but deathless are those who have fed
20 at the breast of the Mother of the Universe."

8 [John Muir on Mt. Ritter]

1 John Muir on Mt. Ritter:

2 After scanning its face again and again,
3 I began to scale it, picking my holds
4 With intense caution. About half-way
5 To the top, I was suddenly brought to
6 A dead stop, with arms outspread
7 Clinging close to the face of the rock
8 Unable to move hand or foot
9 Either up or down. My doom
10 Appeared fixed. I MUST fall.

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11 There would be a moment of
12 Bewilderment, and then,
13 A lifeless rumble down the cliff
14 To the glacier below.
15 My mind seemed to fill with a
16 Stifling smoke. This terrible eclipse
17 Lasted only a moment, when life blazed
18 Forth again with preternatural clearness.
19 I seemed suddenly to become possessed
20 Of a new sense. My trembling muscles
21 Became firm again, every rift and flaw in
22 The rock was seen as through a microscope,
23 My limbs moved with a positiveness and precision
24 With which I seemed to have
25 Nothing at all to do.

9 [Night here, a covert]

1 Night here, a covert
2 All spun, webs in one
3 how without grabbing hold it?
4 ---Get into the bird-cage
5 without starting them singing.

6 "Forming the New Society
7 Within the shell of the Old"
8 The motto in the Wobbly Hall
9 Some old Finns and Swedes playing cards
10 Fourth and Yesler in Seattle.
11 O you modest, retiring, virtuous young ladies
12 pick the watercress, pluck the yarrow
13 "Kwan kwan" goes the crane in the field,
14 I'll meet you tomorrow;
15 A million workers dressed in black and buried,
16 We make love in leafy shade.

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17 Bodhidharma sailing the Yangtze on a reed
18 Lenin in a sealed train through Germany
19 Hsüan Tsang, crossing the Pamirs
20 Joseph, Crazy Horse, living the last free
21 starving high-country winter of their tribes.
22 Surrender into freedom, revolt into slavery---
23 Confucius no better---
24 (with Lao-tzu to keep him in check)
25 "Walking about the countryside
26 all one fall
27 To a heart's content beating on stumps."

10 Amitabha's vow

1 "If, after obtaining Buddhahood, anyone in my land
2 gets tossed in jail on a vagrancy rap, may I
3 not attain highest perfect enlightenment.

4 wild geese in the orchard
5 frost on the new grass

6 "If, after obtaining Buddhahood, anyone in my land
7 loses a finger coupling boxcars, may I
8 not attain highest perfect enlightenment.

9 mare's eye flutters
10 jerked by the lead-rope
11 stone-bright shoes flick back
12 ankles trembling: down steep rock

13 "If, after obtaining Buddhahood, anyone in my land
14 can't get a ride hitch-hiking all directions, may I
15 not attain highest perfect enlightenment.

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16 wet rocks buzzing
17 rain and thunder southwest
18 hair, beard, tingle
19 wind whips bare legs
20 we should go back
21 we don't

11 [Floating of vapor from brazier]

- 1 Floating of vapor from brazier
- 2 Who hold emptiness
- 3 Whose bundle is broken, blank spot in creation
- 4 still gong in a long-empty hall
- 5 perceptions at idle play

- 6 Q. What is the way of non-activity?
- 7 A. It is activity
- 8 Ingather limbs, tighten the fingers
- 9 Press tongue to the roof
- 10 Roll the eyes
- 11 dried & salted in the sun
- 12 In the dry, hard chrysalis, a pure bug waits hatching
- 13 Sudden flares: rush of water and bone
- 14 Netted, fitted
- 15 Flicker of action, nerves burnt in patterns
- 16 fields of cabbages
- 17 yet to consume
- 18 Imprint of flexible mouth-sounds,
- 19 Seared in the mind, on things.

- 20 Coyote: "I guess there never was a world anywhere"
- 21 Earthmaker: "I think if we find a little world,
- 22 "I can fix it up."

12 [I have terrible meditations]

1 I have terrible meditations
2 On the cells all water
3 frail bodies
4 Moisting in a quiver;
5 Flares of life that settle
6 Into stone,
7 The hollow quaking of the soft parts
8 Over bone

9 The city of the Gandharvas,
10 not a real city,
11 Only the memory of a city
12 Preserved in seed from beginningless time.
13 a city crowded with books,
14 Thick grass on the streets,
15 a race of dark people
16 Wearing thin sandals, reading all morning in alleys
17 Glazing black pots at night.

18 the royal feast---
19 One man singing
20 Three join the chorus
21 fifty-stringed *seh*
22 red strings in the sound-board
23 black wine
24 raw fish
25 plain soup
26 "Herrick thou art too coarse to love"
27 Hoarse cry of nighthawk
28 Circling & swooping in the still, bright dawn.

13 [Spikes of new smell driven up nostrils]

- 1 Spikes of new smell driven up nostrils
2 Expanding & deepening, ear-muscles
3 Straining and grasping the sounds
4 Mouth filled with bright fluid coldness
5 Tongue crushed by the weight of its flavors
6 ---the Nootka sold out for lemon drops
7 (What's this talk about not understanding!
8 you're just a person who refuses to see.)
- 9 Poetry a riprap on the slick rock of metaphysics
10 "Put a Spanish halter on that whore of a mare
11 & I'll lead the bitch up any trail"
- 12 (how gentle! He should have whipped her first)
- 13 the wind turns.
14 a cold rain blows over the shale
15 we sleep in the belly of a cloud.
16 (you think sex art and travel are enough?
17 you're a skillful of cowdung)
- 18 South of the Yellow River the Emperor Wu
19 Set the army horses free in the mountain pastures,
20 Set the Buffalo free on the Plain of the Peach Grove.
21 Chariots and armor were smeared with blood
22 and put away. They locked up
23 the Arrows bag.
24 Smell of crushed spruce and burned snag-wood.
25 remains of men,
26 Bone-chopped foul remains, thick stew
27 Food for crows---
28 (blind, deaf, and dumb!
29 shall we give him another chance?)

30 At Nyahaim-kuvara
31 Night has gone
32 Traveling to my land
33 ---that's a Mohave night
34 Our night too, you think brotherhood
35 Humanity & good intentions will stop it?
36 As long as you hesitate, no place to go.

37 Bluejay, out at the world's end
38 perched, looked, & dashed
39 Through the crashing: his head is squashed.
40 symplegades, the *mumonkwan*,
41 It's all vagina dentata
42 (Jump!)
43 "Leap through an Eagle's snapping beak"

44 Actaeon saw Dhyana in the Spring.

45 it was nothing special,
46 misty rain on Mt. Baker,
47 Neah Bay at low tide.

14 [A skin-bound bundle of clutchings]

1 A skin-bound bundle of clutchings
2 unborn and with no place to go
3 Balanced on the boundless compassion
4 Of diatoms, lava, and chipmunks.

5 Love, let it be,
6 Is a sacrifice
7 knees, the cornered eyes
8 Tea on a primus stove after a cold swim

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9 Intricate doors and clocks, the clothes
10 we stand in---
11 Gaps between seedings, the right year,
12 Green shoots in the marshes
13 Creeks in the proper directions
14 Hills in proportion,
15 Astrologers, go-betweeners present,
16 a marriage has been.

17 Walked all day through live oak and manzanita,
18 Scrabbling through dust down Tamalpais---
19 Thought of high mountains;
20 Looked out on a sea of fog.
21 Two of us, carrying packs.

15 [Stone-flake and salmon]

1 Stone-flake and salmon.
2 The pure, sweet, straight-splitting
3 with a ping
4 Red cedar of the thick coast valleys
5 Shake-blanks on the mashed ferns
6 the charred logs
7 Fireweed and bees
8 An old burn, by new alder
9 Creek on smooth stones,
10 Back there a Tarheel logger farm.
11 (High country fir still hunched in snow)

12 From Siwash strawberry-pickers in the Skagit
13 Down to the boys at Sac,
14 Living by the river
15 riding flatcars to Fresno,

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16 Across the whole country
17 Steep towns, flat towns, even New York,
18 And oceans and Europe & libraries & galleries
19 And the factories they make rubbers in
20 This whole spinning show
21 (among others)
22 Watched by the Mt. Sumeru L.O.

23 From the middle of the universe
24 & them with no radio.
25 "What is imperfect is best"
26 silver scum on the trout's belly
27 rubs off on your hand.
28 It's all falling or burning---
29 rattle of boulders
30 steady dribbling of rocks down cliffs
31 bark chips in creeks
32 Porcupine chawed here---
33 Smoke

34 From Tillamook a thousand miles
35 Soot and hot ashes. Forest fires.
36 Upper Skagit burned I think 1919
37 Smoke covered all northern Washington.
38 lightning strikes, flares,
39 Blossoms a fire on the hill.
40 Smoke like clouds. Blotting the sun
41 Stinging the eyes.
42 The hot seeds steam underground
43 still alive.

16 ["Wash me on home, mama"]

1 "Wash me on home, mama"
2 ---song of the Kelp.
3 A chief's wife
4 Sat with her back to the sun
5 On the sandy beach, shredding cedar-bark.
6 Her fingers were slender
7 She didn't eat much.

8 "Get foggy
9 We're going out to dig
10 Buttercup roots"

11 Dream, Dream,
12 Earth! those beings living on your surface
13 none of them disappearing, will all be transformed.
14 When I have spoken to them
15 when they have spoken to me, from that moment on,
16 their words and their bodies which they
17 usually use to move about with, will all change.
18 I will not have heard them. Signed,
19 ()
20 Coyote

17 [Sourdough mountain called a fire in:]

the text

1 Sourdough mountain called a fire in:
2 Up Thunder Creek, high on a ridge.
3 Hiked eighteen hours, finally found
4 A snag and a hundred feet around on fire:
5 All afternoon and into night
6 Digging the fire line
7 Falling the burning snag
8 It fanned sparks down like shooting stars
9 Over the dry woods, starting spot-fires
10 Flaring in wind up Skagit valley
11 From the Sound.
12 Toward morning it rained.
13 We slept in mud and ashes,
14 Woke at dawn, the fire was out,
15 The sky was clear, we saw
16 The last glimmer of the morning star.

the myth

17 Fire up Thunder Creek and the mountain---
18 troy's burning!
19 The cloud mutters
20 The mountains are your mind.
21 The woods bristle there,
22 Dogs barking and children shrieking
23 Rise from below.

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24 Rain falls for centuries
25 Soaking the loose rocks in space
26 Sweet rain, the fire's out

27 The black snag glistens in the rain
28 & the last wisp of smoke floats up
29 Into the absolute cold
30 Into the spiral whorls of fire
31 The storms of the Milky Way
32 "Buddha incense in an empty world"
33 Black pit cold and light-year
34 Flame tongue of the dragon
35 Licks the sun

36 The sun is but a morning star

Crater Mt. L.O. 1952-Marin-an 1956