

## Amnesia

beside a scarred trunk stand others  
alike in their wretchedness,  
woodgrowth clotting where blades  
struck years ago in a fit of order  
familiar rust-greenness  
dapples the peeling trees as they gulp  
the sun plunge eyeless towards  
the earth pine needled and clay infested  
only sturdy things grow here  
dissolutions of limestone split the marrow  
of stalks, long-running femurs  
buried like pillars in our thighs  
in the thighs of creatures like us  
body-copies appear in fields           you know, afterwards—  
ironweed relics of quadriceps,  
broods of hollowness  
creeping from a skull's  
rotted oculi

dead ones!  
guard against what comes easily  
forgetting how memory is swift erosion and  
that you were once the sea  
carve fossils from our callused palms  
reliquaries whispering long touches  
and quick letters and slapping  
the lovebones found in witch stumps filled with  
what you'd expect  
autumn's last leaves drowned beneath  
accumulations of dew  
layered in strata above a dark loam,  
womb of grass womb of bulbs  
let us rise in a great vapor  
from torn places, their strange  
wounds mossed over  
scabbed, then opened fresh by new tracks  
of a fast-crawling tiller