

# Participles of Deserere

Ariana Reines

u let me pluck leaves  
from yr hanging-down beard  
clover gemmed with rain  
wet acacias fragrancng the fine  
young palms the mosses wet  
over careful sons of julian complicating  
my arousal        the care i feel for this  
creature unbombastic    its fever now  
making it tread quietly across the floor

virgin moss  
      virgin bloom  
revirginated forests boreal  
pregnancy apogee of the virgin annunciation  
full fathom five thy father lies

hawk red on a streetlight  
sun temple in the form of a chariot  
lariat grasses tender & green  
leaves unshaven beards of rain  
cooked chocolate  
sun in mounds

i used my best bitch voice  
to get more ceviche for tongo's  
mother arlene            just  
back from six months in venezuela

                                 "cow's mouth  
salivating in the street" tongo's  
poem

strange car with its butt cut off  
window selling a new blonde espresso  
conspiracy born of the president's hair

looking at pine boughs  
thinking up money  
passing santa teresa boulevard  
pines circusing the dark clouds  
bolaño's cheek as turning light  
on a distant hill            faint rainbow before us

a note from the beautiful sculptor  
email promised from smoky glasgow  
polar ice screaming into water  
tongo's lines    past the xmas tree grove  
glowing jane & bright layla  
a palm beside a pine  
unspooling the father's iridescent petroleum  
green moss on all the ropes of trees

past the garlic of gilroy  
clots of nopales & signs  
for cherries    hill covered  
in yellow mustard flowers  
& despairing of the instruction he craved  
he withtook himself again to questing lines  
rain drove down on bending cows

8-tracks of kalipooni  
teacher awakened by a rat  
spectres of our supposed collective  
wickedness    the lenten  
technocratic churches of norcal  
rain misting the wild highway  
gasoline of the twentieth century  
pooling at watsonville  
where j once    in the car with a pathological  
liar    saw a flying saucer

in the cold white light of my computer  
my client called me a genius  
cadence of twentieth-century alibis  
cadence of gentle men to  
whom i now loose my pen  
it was just one way of keeping the promise  
once made to me that i could be a hundred  
thousand people    nausea  
at the sight of our flag  
too big in the blowing rain  
guns in the quiver of the state  
tear gas eardrum destroying machinery  
the gun of wrecked children the AR-15

a partial history of iridescence  
gizzard like an abalone hid  
among giblets in the holiday bird  
day of mourning from hurricane  
sandy to sandy  
hook    stand of trees  
in the form of china  
the great sand fire of 2016  
hot wind over the water at big sur  
jonah down in the whale  
alien song chiming the trident seas

moon cloven by abyssal birds  
twilight must be the darkest  
hour on the highway, she sang  
but tho her song rang true  
it was not so

almost upon the sorrows  
of coalinga where svp's "sexually  
violent predators" are locked  
in their hospital where cows  
go to die      past soledad  
the crime      with the beautiful name

industrial death from which all souls recoil  
upon which we still sup  
tongo said the oakland juvie broke him  
boys locked in closets ringing the indoor yard

virgin moon  
untouched by god  
& man    a buddha  
dream    everyone wearing a topknot  
"you've already covered all the material"  
bitter incarcerating angel

all my self-cruelty or my liver  
accomplishing the churning  
of waste into shit  
whatever i did for guilt or duty  
whatever i exchanged  
for a brief anesthetizing season  
in unthreatening beds

"pigs for sale"  
"freedom is not free"  
worm moon  
moon of primeval emergence

virgin navel pressing out into the world  
up from the wet soil  
up from the ground  
green eating glacier water  
i don't know that you ever set foot in california  
gentle scholar, searcher, poet  
finder out of the secrets hid in "junk" dna  
entertainer of the wilder ideas  
true weaving, true intelligence, all gifts inadmissible  
to the university, data uncorroboratable  
virtues incomprehensible to high court  
gifts of years conferred in a single spoken word  
mystic radio of galena & clay  
& other ingredients i cannot say  
rubbed on the heel of the palm  
& presented to the rising sun