

MOTHER OF

(a silence a long silence)

quiet as fern sex

while we determine what order to rescind

the bearing is military

as medals the authority

unquestioned

the silver ring bows the finger

(a silence) of carpet slippers

an old and unfashionable silence

in the era of the vote and Ruth's baby

whenever he walks

he flushes swarms of white butterflies

and the bone china chatters

he is a verb among meadow rue

the molecules lock

behind us and underneath a wind

oils the deeper dark

he will never remember

what he broke

we cannot return

neither in the threatening silence

can we go forward

other than step by step

feeling with our hands and shouting like bats

for the echo