**Man**: Contrast and likeness, the difference between one bird and many. The similarity of one bird, one worm, one stone. From finger-counting to sticks, to symbols, to abstractions: magnitudes no longer represented by pebbles. Numbers larger than ten are no longer human: they fly from the hand into the imaginary sky we call hypothesis. Take this bird, for example: make it equal something. Get it on one side of the sky. Solve means isolate. Solve means conquer.

[The numbers suit up and take the field.]

**Zero**: Was I discovered or invented? Feels like

I’ve always been here.

**Man**: I put a line around his border but he still wasn’t there. A hole in the world. A failure. I turned away.

**Ghost**: You start counting at one, not zero, which is wrong.

**Man**: Thing or nothing, where or nowhere.

**Ghost**: Measure yourself against truth and not the other way around.

**Man**: Man, moon, ghost, zero – naming rounds off. Perfect and completely dead.

**Moon**: Your math is crazy.

**Ghost**: You can count to eight with the spaces between your fingers.

**Sadness**: If you have one apples and I take away one apples you have, zero apples and a sadness,

says the sadness.

**Eleven**: It’s true [puts on suit]

**Square Root of Negative One**: Counting is boring, even when it works.

**Ghost**: Subtraction is worse, says

**Sadness**: [nods]

**Moon**: Math is just replacing things with other things. Skull on a bottle equals poison.

**Ghost**: We erase birds from the sky in an attempt to solve for, we put bodies in piles in an attempt to solve for.

**Suitcase**: People don’t learn anything unless they are afraid of being left behind. I am afraid,

**Man**: Here and there and what to do about it.

**Equal Sign**: Leave out the equal sign and the very idea of place will end, says the equal sign. Even when you are in rocketships.