

By the Banks of Blood Run Creek.

The girl  
in a field of grass and weed bordered  
by a creek;  
the iron in the soil turns the water  
reddish  
the creek is unnamed  
so she names it;  
"Blood Run Creek"

above clouds  
white against blue  
they come one at a time driven by the  
wind  
bunching up into a quilt.

The sun is  
warm on her face,  
goes behind a cloud and comes out  
again;  
for her?  
she casts off her long coat that  
conceals her  
and hikes up the skirt that runs down  
to her ankles  
trailing in the grass  
getting mud stained down in the  
creek-wet red earth;

ants  
quick and so many  
from a hole in the ground  
they come out to look up at her  
she is giant above them  
she picks up a branch

#### STAFF

She digs the stick in the ground,  
scratches a circle a yard around the  
mound.  
Ants she says, I give you this land  
and no other.  
She pokes the mound with her stick  
perhaps to get their attention  
dozens of fighter ants rush up and  
out of the hole  
to challenge her  
she picks up a red-black one

#### JOSHUA

I call you Joshua Ant  
and I make this covenant with you  
obey me and this land is yours;

she gestures to the field.  
Joshua Ant tries to pincher bite her  
finger,  
do not anger me Joshua Ant, for I  
am . . .  
Girl-Sky-G-d!

#### PROPHECY

Joshua Ant keeps pinching at her  
finger.  
If you do not heed my will . . .  
I WILL LAY WASTE TO YOU AND ALL YOUR  
KIND!  
Joshua Ant, feelers waving, again  
bites at her.  
Let it be SO!  
She crushes Joshua Ant;  
Ant guts smear her fingers  
she flicks the remains into the  
creek.

#### APOCALYPSE

she looks down at the ants running  
in circles; Do they sense their Doom?  
she raises her foot  
and smashes it down on dozens of them  
some are crushed  
but others pull themselves out of the  
dirt  
feelers waving up at her  
she lifts her foot to stomp again  
and again;  
tired, she stops.

#### NEW EARTH

Those still alive I shall spare thee,  
but let this be a lesson unto thee;  
for I am Girl-Sky-G-d and from this  
day forward  
you will always know of me

sun waning,  
Girl-Sky-G-d goes back  
across the field

She looks back over her domain  
and then goes in for supper.