

OUTDOOR MINER

The light is pink through the backs of trees
can be pine or larch or pear

kinship terms more familiar than names
can be distancing diminutivizing affirming no longer unfamiliar

power cut no inverter
use the gas make tea

slab bakery rising a smell dettol-like heavy vaporous low-lying toxified
can come will be there

Above polished granite compound brown beyond trees hills disappear into houses
concrete lain over rebar hand-torqued into convexity

forms a solid gray unbeveled arch from hilltop to roofline to madan
ostensibly maybe probably to keep errant exposed flanks of illegally-mined sand at bay

because beyond the trees within city limits resources are extracted
thin though thin through competition thin like *chats shillongais*

thin through taking thin through selling thin through use thin alkaline
from our royal blue Maruti 800 we marvel ('I've never seen anything like this')

Belt that looks like it's in inches
measuring the land they wanted to measure right up to the drain

he demanded they measure four feet from the drain they wouldn't
they measured two feet from the drain

Multiply 1300 per sq foot by 150 by something
it comes to seven crore and something

are you accusing me of making a mistake he said
it's eight

The light is still morning light
thin but full and not paining bright

cat Kyntiak (later disappeared leaving
jean thread hangings tangling attachment

the vox-hollow bereft missing swipes)
motionless intent springing

curling into grass shadowed by reeds
shaded by the backs of trees

Like citrus vapor the light emulsifies
micronic droplet *flamande*

Kyntiak intensifies
muscles tighten dainty

to articulate tip
the jaws pink bat-like

begin to open and close rapidly in a clatter
like toy teeth hers are needles on a wound spring

She in a trance flashing the teeth
the jaws opening and closing very rapidly

from the throat an involuntary chatter
an ek ek ek

frightening until a short echo sounds
she's imitating in the grass

a small black bird nearly perfectly
as a kind of lure staring intent involuntary

Let out in the afternoon moon
hens

sawdust sticking to their heels
forking

but ignored draw lines in the wet grass pushing up
pyrjong mosquitoes

intimate gossamers but gossamers
require cosseting to be expected to survive

Not *th* as in *thy*
voiced and voiceless two-character plosive

melled double-wound copper core
damp down mutton bone thlone

trains the tongue to make *h* cluster
aspirationally close the windows it's after 5

it's already two hours
since the mosquitoes left the shallows for the sha—

Cat as cowboy
astride

the white chickens
thick

compound I
not as in *thy*

we freely
take

Too hot to paint
corrugated tin all last month

too wet now in back to whitewash or paint the doors
green enamel islands fleck

into Sintex
yellow print black catchment

tin roof in the rain
too wet to paint

Nature where encroachments and distortions are everywhere
nuclear minority Romulus and Remus same she produces wastes

Romanized orthography botches
epenthetic lot

extension
takes another plot

down the garden path
switching on the pump

Starting construction the land by Royal Enfield accommodates
another concrete abode

outdoor tube-lights
fail to explode

Golfink Lodge stupendous
can't get a liquor license

the Garo church down the lane objects
the Cherokee Room at rs. ----- remains empty

And this house itself a dacha outside the city limits this city
Salzburg sma ksem

where Mozart came and Julie Andrews
fashioned love out of drapes

what is it ringed by mountains like a berserk
Maypole sticking up from tech park proclaiming vanquished cloud corpora

Salzburg while down the hill toward the private pinus psychiatric hospital
a rural health mission strops youth in clime or was that just in Golda's mind

The red light atop the black plastic speakers' subwoofer beats
in waltz time

jaggery candy striper wound round spindle leading down to three men
in basement rooms the khrum for clandestine Buds

I think in America you don't see very many ladies in saris
there is no more native dress anywhere I think only India is beautiful

Morse bill of lading
Ezekiel trading

The light is fading
the bed is mading

the heart is beating
bp-bp bp-BP!

chattering teeth
like polished teak

repeating
reap