

## LANGUAGE AND DISCERNMENT

think before you  
speak

but look before you  
think

the child's soft  
hand

presses and strains  
against

a heavy stationary  
sphere

looks frustrated  
with contorted gesture

flaming eye  
a wail

that pierces any  
quiet mind—

an early  
encounter

with the  
unsurpassable

they've not yet  
learned

the words  
limit or

possible or  
hopeless

thought or perhaps just  
a puffy vapor

a kind of primordial pre-matter  
of thought

that hangs suspended  
waiting

for sound and  
compression

but no waiting  
is needed

to  
cry-

since it comes  
straight from blood

and bones and  
emptiness

that hurts before  
one can say

empty or  
longing

a vague vocabulary  
of experience

nonetheless begins  
to shape

alongside whatever  
gnomic

contours sensation  
offered

tell me what it  
all looked

like before  
your first word

language  
and discernment-

thus interwoven  
in infancy

yet in maturity  
forgotten