Hearing Still
Also by George Messo:

Poetry
From the Pine Observatory (2000)
Entrances (2006)

Translation
A Leaf About To Fall: Selected Poems – İlhan Berk (2006)
Madrigals – İlhan Berk (2008)
Book of Things – İlhan Berk (2009)
İkinci Yeni: The Turkish Avant-Garde (2009)

In Turkish
Aradaki Ses (The In-Between Voice, 2005)
Avrupa’nın Küçük Tanrıları (The Little Gods of Europe, 2007)
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for Semra
Man speaks in that he responds to language. 
This responding is a hearing. It hears because it 
listens to the command of stillness.

Martin Heidegger (1889–1976)

Ton silence
Parlera pour toi

Abdellatif Laâbi
Ilahi

Rising for the Fajr prayer, water’s morning coolness says “wake & go & sit before your god. Be mindful of the candle’s losing flame. For now you are neither east nor west, neither night shrouded nor day burning. Wash for a god you cannot ignore”.

Light will be on you like a rash. Bow down and say: \textit{affliction and all that I have I own.}

\textit{for Deena Linett}
Answers at Dawn

I

Wake
to wet asphalt
glistening:
first touch
first sun

II

Morning-
hearts:
your
micro-pearls
scattered in roadside grass

III

Night
folds
like
a concertina:
distant skirl of cormorants
Windstorm. Oman.

Anger makes you small useless
& therefore silent
shaking through
the bricked-up box
we call a home

while outside sand
crouches grain on grain
around our desert lives.

Anger has no use for you,
small;
this bricked-up life
we count
   as home
grain
   by
   grain.
Will You Ever See New Brunswick?

There are rivers we will never fish.

\[\text{Is this one of them?}\]

You walk alone to the forest pool.

\[\text{Does it know I’m coming?}\]

Spring grilse have news from the sea.

\[\text{Is it something we should know about?}\]

There are no myths, but mystery persists.

The earth’s visible gasp rises
as mist into crisp air over water.

\[\text{for Scott Andrew Christensen}\]