The Zechstein Sea
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The Zechstein Sea

Shearsman Books
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for Robert Sheppard
Straight

straight
and drained
and marked by paths
a slow game
at any time
stopped there
forgot to focus
ruins sheeted
hooves muffled

we make this picture
using only a cigar box
we can’t see this
without it completing
in our minds
of the five legs
two of them are you
Practical Philosophy

take an animal into the house
an alligator or dog
say one of many different attitudes

above all
venerate your animal
with a necessary consideration
to its reasons

we need to think about the space
and orientation of this
our house

we need
to know
it is the diet
sufficiently
that makes it so
the existence
and habitude
of the animal

evidently

we make choices
but in the house the animal
begs space and freedom
long passages for the dog
long hours of sleep
for the alligator
do not sit upon
the aspirations of
this dog or alligator
The Tower of Silence (a-e)

a)

when the throat is cut
and the voice falls back
and on the floor
the things I see when I read aren’t real
the cake shop
and right next door
the strange room in the cellar

he calls me ‘little friend’
turning the flesh from inside out
and each time we died he wept

the earth floats
on the air
like a leaf
are the birds outside the window having fun?
b)

take the word *patient*
this has to be one thing
how can I understand
it also means another

performing the operation in my head
a notebook appears on the table
with four pencils beside it
c)

all this
a place arises founded on causation
a conjunction reason
that in the present case
either to suppose some beings exist
or that when the whole is in the whole
the absurdity of the two proves sufficiently
the supposition it resolves

ask me in thirty years and I will say

all this a place
arises founded on
causation a conjunction
reason that in the present case
either to suppose some
beings exist or
that when the whole is in the whole the absurdity of the two
proves sufficiently the supposition it resolves

ask me to walk past the yellow door
and I will say that this is not the same street
d)

common sense was wrong
salivating more for bread than meat

four pages of fine print
four hours of step-by-step procedure
two hundred stitches
sequentially from health to happiness
bathed and shaved
without a drop of blood
without a single scream

the pebbles placed on graves
make nothing in the mouth
ground to sand
we dribble to get rid of them

the prick of a pin
the pat of a hand
starting to say
more than you can prove
take one look at the brain
and throw it away in despair

sing

twenty-five sentimental songs
about breeding a non-viable food-source
which breaks its wings in zero gravity
e)

these three interests are related
the mouth waters
Little Friend

although they are decapitated
remember my enchantment
Little Friend

I learned how to sever
getting in from the outside world

listen to the electrical activity
listen through the telephone
Little Friend

I am nervous with behaviour
of leaving marks on the future
Little Friend

problems of life and mind
just roared with laughter as he does

we’re provoking new lines of thought
cutaneous sensations
Little Friend

a will to simply intelligence
the material right juices
Little Friend
please believe
I do not exaggerate

falls straight through
and on the ground
Little Friend

the nearly perfect possible
excites me in the normal fashion
Little Friend
Snail Climbing

A line of men, haphazardly across the field, might be refigured as nothing left to stand on. Or would you retouch their eyes?

The same one is watching. He inscribes “snail climbing” as he walks across the floor, going along with a concept that all things are assembles of smallers and of smallers, all more or less alike.

What kind of day is this? Here is all the weather of the world. Is that Jesus? He will tilt the globe a little and maybe you will slide—but you will not fall. Do you understand?

The last dot contains a compact version of the book of ages; the law comes down from the mountain or the mountain.