

SAMPLER

Encroach to Resume

ALSO BY PETER LARKIN

Enclosures
Prose Woods
Pastoral Advert
Terrain Seed Scarcity
Slight's Agreeing Trees
Sprout Near Severing Close
Rings Resting The Circuit
What the Surfaces Enclave of Wang Wei
Leaves of Field *
Lessways Least Scarce Among *
Imparkments (The Surrogate Has Settled)
Give Forest Its Next Portent *
City Trappings (Housing Heath or Wood)
Introgression Latewood *
Trees Before Abstinent Ground *

Wordsworth and Coleridge: Promising Losses

** Titles from Shearsman Books*

PETER LARKIN

Encroach to
Resume

Shearsman Books

First published in the United Kingdom in 2021 by
Shearsman Books Ltd
PO Box 4239
Swindon
SN3 9FN

Shearsman Books Ltd Registered Office
30–31 St. James Place, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS16 9JB
(this address not for correspondence)

www.shearsman.com

ISBN 978-1-84861-756-8

Copyright © Peter Larkin, 2021.

The right of Peter Larkin to be identified as the author
of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the
Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act of 1988.
All rights reserved.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful thanks to the following magazines and their editors where extracts
from some of these poems first appeared: *The Fortnightly Review*, *Junction Box*,
Litter, *Plumwood Mountain*, *Shearsman magazine*, *SNOW*.

It's also a pleasure to thank Tony Frazer once again for all his
support at Shearsman.

Contents

Roots on Foot / Feet in Root	Spaces in the way of Forest
7	27
	As a Tree Not a Tree
	39
Given Trees Their Other Side of Nature	Skies in Flight of Tree
59	73
Bodies the Trees of	Snag of a Tree
87	95

The unicity of the visible world, and, by encroachment, the invisible world ... is the solution of the problems of the 'relations between the soul and the body'. (VI,233)

Flesh of the world, described... as segregation, dimensionality, continuation, latency, encroachment. (VI, 248)

My personal life must be the resumption of a prepersonal tradition. There is... another subject beneath me, for whom the world exists before I am here, and who marks out my place in it. (PP, 254)

Sensation, as the primordial contact with being, is the resumption...of a form of existence, itself constitutive of a setting for co-existence, of a space (PP, 255)

—Maurice Merleau-Ponty

ROOTS ON FOOT
/ FEET IN ROOT

1987 (2018)

SAMPLER

For Bruce Andrews

Note

The present text is a heavily edited and partly re-written version of a long poem simply called 'roots/ /feet' written between 1986–7 but which was never published. It arose from a trenchant saying I came across by Bruce Andrews, something like 'why bother with roots when all we need is feet?' I felt a need to regurgitate, experiment and tussle with this, and I think there is still some life in the material though perhaps the immediate context has gone.

January, 2018

He walks still upright with the Root
Meas'ring the Timber with his Foot

ANDREW MARVELL

Huge roots intertwin'd
With wildest texture

COLERIDGE

that it provides 'feet' for thought...

It is, in short, less radical. 'Where are human feet?'

GEOFFREY HARTMAN

I

the insatiability of meaning it not rooted, were feet
wearied, not weaned not footing placing but
peculiar putting

to disexemplify (a root) the interruption
of repose erupts it only foot-height

but origin is imper-
ative, the then start: sharpest rejoinders before universal
inclination

cleft-referee: divide the feet on which a root
frets foot-skill in itinerary, the latter adds
root-sheet, a kernel elongated (footlike) and reducible

bare feet close the envelope of flaps, root
no breeze felt what aspect of the body's inertia defies
feet their root-shape? the passage through has no
replacement feet can unfold

'cutting nature at the joints a root delusion' the surf-
ace a stream on jointed limb, root in striding-own missed
prison soonness of feet ought not to be idle within
the paring of root

foot-level because slung over roots,
no barrier-free exterior sign, the streams of root bushed
on the footway regional-essential whereby clos-
ure a detour if it endure, sealed ornate (a little) but
rarely other enough a site of deployables

what regulars of
sect where the roots crawl under the horizon, an
exclave, swathing the feet against this cut of steps?
roots drift, feet omit? use the rail to a room and
a half (half as of each foot) the ego of roots feet
shorter to go

spray
ground at root-collapse (siphon across the hollow) smears
sole the thin-won feet inherent in the floor disgulfs
the basic, put roots an everywhere inherently not a mom-
ent of rest at the footpoint's re-posed

to stay overlong
underground strips distance of immediate overlay, far
cast, not spreading belief but stepping on it needed, to
avoid the overlay (roots lacing over the feet) the main
limit must be holed up in inherent move

the floor roots lie on, stand, not open

the door feet tie on, alone again erect the
wafer on the lip of the feet

flattening an open world
pressed-roots of rehearsals

SPACES || IN THE WAY OF FOREST

(Notations, Prevalences, Betweens)

2018

SAMPLER

SAMPLER

Pathless between no solitary dressage but pined into tall separation

if firs lean off firs they are not countervailing a forest rearing but
will rake (rank) its defacing || a full plight of forest is least chasm
for trees

with no issuing spatiality other than aggregation, apposition, forest
result

spaces which can't be postponed even in their inert givens || at
forest collide with fully operational make-way trees

a small circuit stretches into belonging (along lengths) || screened
into its own spaces, events between its own orifices

whereabouts between mysterious (elongated, discontinuous)
cresting || are these between entirely under cover?

no change of mass in the interspaces apart from falling seeds || in
every nearer interval of the uniform

to say spaces in touch and climbing a trunk at a time || refining,
breathing its horizontal concessions, the relinquishment entirely
upright

latent spaces between where forest is abandoned, unrandomed, slyly
adorned

in which there is no gradation of trees but sliding positions of a
forest attending to distinctions of scope || whose adjustments are
now ferried in root, unqueued as green gap

deep weather-lane into trees, a tandem to allegory || a gap gone
astray but not pierced, as such remains every incomplete tree

almost a spiral of light but etiolated by gaps in the vertical, embeds
a forest's exception to spread

inhabited spears of tree or small peduncles cherishing what the gaps
haven't deserted || there was never any freer void to assert

great surfaces of a wood run entirely through its pauses, subside as
immensely relayed

cohabits forecasting woodland interval || no longer simply amid
but a whole spatial weather of sheltered surface

a forest's prayerful pitch is along the interim beside it, a species out
of hiding

no summitism here apart from room for empty clefts || side on side
of each others' tangents of division, touch the inter-domain

small gains of copse towards every carrying passage || steep borders
transmit until lightly vertical || accompany layout off the dial of
the neutral

forests get supervised on, their subscenes inventories of passage
minus any clear break-through || a space is not a fair, lays open how
it is every envoy quietening the relay

defended but not offended at a vapour of cover || spaces suspend
any alike-forest oasis of minimal (infinite) exchange

overcome by elsewhere already overgone here, passing an intimate
through an unclose

as trees puncture the open, seal its injects with denser bowers || and
still the space scours, but exactly in terms of

a mass of space compromised by a missing map of trees || canopy
has retextured its offload grid || space is up against (collates)
its own artifices of distribution || forest rides will withhold any
naturalness of retribution

spaces in the forest pitch a vacant platform of duress || trees heal
this distress of penetration || they lend their vertical fenestrations
unaggrieved

a range of dearth exceeding its depiction in trees, each departure
thickens the furtherance | | or nearer as an incoming of segment
(place) arrives on frame, spatial shell

leeway is the frail consumer, traces assuming an advantage of covert
| | no entry will manage such a reciprocal exit | | the way out has a
longer history than passage

lanes through trees are not the forest's line of flight | | set linear at
integral microfret, leaves across a foiled avenue | | of all places a
world unhugely available | | forest spaces only half-gone but entirely
given on

a ground of trees in diminishing may shunt inclusion onto forest
supplement | | deeper incursion once branches tread into | | a shelf
of foliage has committed its own intersect

as if one wood could be seen from another across a paltry interval | |
one that leaves them both to their own convergences

what self-stealing in nature is swept up at a ruse of trees, never
a single scope occupied at a time | | think more of these spaces
than at the full, simply pulled over forest | | go sparsely into that
intensity of attribution

a singular grammar of air trailing filaments | | escapements of tree,
busy prepositions remantling the swing of forest

dapple the forest in marginal gauze, find an antiplace ahead of
ways in however thin | | a whole panoply of space attends without
amending, then sustains a reached fabric's no more bending

otherwise (spacing) the strong ground of a weak fulfilment, were it
not for a congress of trees | | puncture the layout to inhabit/venture
a placing that won't overcome its between, its core blister of the
beyond

resistance (in the way of) is a scope of completion, small pressure
points that do not evacuate | | spacings which inflame but do not
know to excavate

forest, you were never in the way as an abstainer | | spaces prevent
any internment but stay close to the shadows | | room for mesh-like
gestures are a signal for trees to begin

though spaces can be indigent, once they find themselves curved,
furrowed, they will not be left naked | | only the veering extent will
be in borrowed clothes

spaces between trees steer at the edges and focus risings out | |
pinpoint ascension as spatial run-off | | forest stands will offer their
own denials | | not taken up between

geospecific immersion (insertion) is foreign to racks of the world, but
at peace between rows of trees

spacing is a curtain drawing trees closer than they could suffocate | |
as gaps between have the presentiment of a borderless beyond, but
then a branch moves, lifts ground

margins bend their own slacker perseverance to an inseparability | |
o that no trees enclose themselves but only in myriad spaces of
containment

few trees to affirm themselves or always in their travail of
arrangement | | spacings (casings) exporting forest shell

upright spaces get blown against forest, sown into cracks they
clamour for the heights | | storms of union, punctuated, decaptivated
by a coalescence of trees

ample brace at the outset of an earth's surfaces, then trampled on
until the crushed spaces ripen to forest

as nomad laces are to brambles, resident free spaces are to branches

green has three coverables: ground, branch, gap | | only the one
exposable: forest obstacle | | adjoiningly served spine of glade

where spaces bear a rod the forest inflects the stroke, is indeed
capacious foliage to be smote

SNAG OF A TREE

2020

SAMPLER

In memory of Benita Parry

It is this whole field of the 'vertical' that has to be awakened...What is upright is the existence that is threatened by weight, that leaves the plane of objective being, but not without dragging with it all the adversity and favours it brought there.

MERLEAU-PONTY

never nothing quite
ending even after
every intervention

protection

HARRIET TARLO

Note

In this context, a 'snag' is an upright dead tree left to withstand/decompose naturally in the midst of a forest.

Standing in full forest at the ruin of a tree every disadvantage bar
 one is the one it is gives too stiff for thriving its super-added
 givens

Indurate flesh vertically porous at a puncture the call of hyper-
 commonality so long as the ruin stands opaque pylon,
 obstinative cipher

Destitute boundary
 not fallen on itself,
 broad branching as
 death's surrogate

a silent world ladder
 no horizontal support,
 unconditional rung
 seeming stiff, a
 rigor vitae

forest being woody
 comes at this knock:
 abandoned form
 a hollow cage to
 symbolic refit

Uprights at the rate of ruin, crammed wellsprings of from loud
 cavity to the silent hollow prime decay releases expressly at the tip
 the blunt grip as much as tapering

No direct apology for rigid tendrils in this barbarous wood presses
 an age-scorched lignum onto its rocket nervure on upreared
 surface arrest at a new pool

Calcified tree-flesh risen perched dead into locus brief re-creation
in post-complete stasis no other reprisals at the blockage

Dehiscence a dried-up vertical tense of a time ruin a tensile pillar
continuing to (not with) indifferent scatter exhausted future
fabric at its incoming mooring

Effect a decaying to
new origin, posted
at the afterlife
(counter-spring)
of upsurge

a having-been at
its vertical retake,
site-specific
brittle-Pacific

sufficient density to
taper own sediment,
alignment passes its
sway, becomes manifold
(solitary) accompaniment

A reject accorded physiognomy, a cast of the wiles of crumble-shot
carbon post-sentence is last to be fully sited winking the
follicles of removed foliage

Unwrecked ruin too late for its horizontals, its feeding trail from
wider tedding the vertical snag deposits present non-conditions
as offer a dead upright replies to its latent knowledge