

Hillel Schwarz / THE SWORD FORM, FIRST PART

1. Starting:

If you think we are starting
we are not starting: we are
making believe that we stopped.

2. Three Rings Encircling Moon:

The blade moves in tight orbit
to our weakest parts. The moon
is always in jeopardy.

3. Delivering Sword:

Love is truce, an absolute
apology; even so,
the sword must come to the hand.

4. Big Devil-Star:

You warned me we'd terrify
each other. Of course. Only
evil is predictable.

5. Swallow Skimming Water:

See, I too can tease and hunt
your old lovers. You must have
known I was there in the wings.

6. Fending & Sweeping:

Put off twenty thousand times
by your careful tenderness,
should I learn guilt or patience?

7. Little Devil-Star:

I watch you at the fire
burning old letters. Ashes
never do justice to words.

8. Swallow Entering Nest:

We have built in clay and straw
at corners, but the rest is
flight, years of air. Corners hold.

9. Phoenix Lifting Up Head:

Motion is a long disease.
Please don't look at me that way;
we have come too far for cures.

10. Phoenix Extending Right Wing:

That first time that I came back
you swore; the predicament
was not faith but wanting none.

11. Phoenix Extending Left Wing:

Balance is habitual
surprise; I reach to show that
you were unavoidable.