

JEN CRAWFORD / from *Soft Shroud*

glowing cloud

Nabubuhay sa tagilid na daga

people go back and shelter in the church remains
leave the garden empty (& white tablecloths

lengthen my neck back before the foothills
unmake lines of stone haze
with jawbone go visit them there

from here where we're (plaster walls, a cuticle

above the governor's gardens the window's
grey down in the isthmus of the oviduct
a membrane

oscillation

stillness with dual

in the mouth, an egg, lips together, sounding around it
telling the truth tongue is weighted
warmth of a mouth

drop

everything from the hands push open the window push closed
the window push open the window. something happen to the air flakes of ash. wear
a coat take off wear a coat. wear your hair and pat the skin

in the window plant life radiate out and radiate
viscous

in a thinner
hum net of concrete. iris concrete

motorways in the future of arrest plant life,
croach up the road works
unmend arrest
to a point, iris an east-west

palm in all these countries
radiate out and
in with all the stroma,
touch-names, giving known

navigates a fingerplace in ocean stream
your second time here point inside
this *taxonomic feeling*

the fingers press down into the membrane of the floor, read it coming up.
blue fork veins. come up, come up heat, read a man in the gully with his gumboots on

man in the gully with an egg in his mouth. be perpendicular, read pieces
of the bridge on high, haze unmake the lines of the sky stones. read the gully on a
man. weight of a wedge of air, a vale full

walled at the mouth in rising blue. blue be higher (no where is a gully mouth
blocked. block painted blue, apartment block. a stroma. static. please, hold the egg in
your hand and up in the air. the perpendicular trick, stood stock straight in valley
weight. in ash flow

river through the gully go, hot, organs of a mountain. hot river, strip the
gumboots. strip the ankles. collect at the concrete wall. rise there against the wall.
water go on. come ashmud

is near. mouth-wall collect, go out lights. wrap
in the softest.
talus bones go. toe bones go let jaw go. be cased.
cat-round pile at the base,
wrapped

crossflow rib-cage lifts
round sucked air

in the blanket becoming and not at the same time wrapped
in the disappearance of friction between your
particles your larger particles floating
in suspension in the solid-gas matrix of the *glowing cloud's*

(not at the same time extra-
ordinary velocity

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“A NUÉE ARDENTE is a fast-moving cloud of gas released in a volcanic eruption and containing pyroclastic material.”—Alexander E. Gates and David Ritchie. *Encyclopedia of Earthquakes and Volcanoes*, Third Edition.

Nabubuhay sa tagilid na daga. This traditional Bikol expression translates as “Able to live on tilted earth.”

Not I, some child, born in a marvellous year,
will learn the trick of standing upright here.

—Allen Curnow, “The skeleton of the great moa in the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch”