

Fred Wah / from ARTiculations

14. (*back pack*)

they say short fall
talk back
they say back up
say back breed
they say half out
or fight flight
some say worm
back bone and sleep tight
they say fall back
and give up
back door
some real true
blood back bone
then turn 'round
just drop back
for camouflage
some say clear cut
they fire back
they back fill
they say detour
down under outback
full of back off talk
and back lash
the wrong word
the back space
a hose job
to back track
they said that
way back

21. (*cavity*)

Plato's pathway
and the lone messengers
cavity cooked

some endosoma
dry toast
tandem to the semiotic candida

won't call it the syntax of diving
abridge the raw throat
taut as a "b" string

no genetic mantra either
but a full cup of semi-vowels
caught between nature and culture

silkworms for fish
crickets for phonemes
the pure for the empty

24. *rip*

Loss empty
anima vowel

just a “rip”
in the self

a little snack
with patience

a little cut
for the throat

need to

find the wound
for the bandage

25. (*return swimming*)

To climb is to return swimming into the signal of
floating neutral above the drift not of words but if a
stroke's borrowed it will come back animal sobbing a
stage a territory the bones rhyming elephant memory
along that hide of shore writing itself down into Asia
the shoulder of the tear

26. *(He(r) it)*

He(r) it knew the city promised an epistemological river like “lucky you” they would say but don’t reach past the next answer that part of the game is to look back into the cast path robbed and turned around no name no ink flow cut out meaning riven to those ol’ Confucian straits.

27. (*pas au delà*)

At the height of the dying rumoured to have been
against the law some say is the mouth-watering
stammer of *pas au-delà* or trespass of the body which
rends itself into our moist honeyed groins as a pact
falling free of the tight squeeze outside words ricochet
of tongue floor and hunger breaking.

35. (*swift current*)

If you could put a gopher in this poem
And then a halter strap.
If they could hang themselves in the barn.

Late in the morning.
Sometimes
after church.
A bucket of water.
Next to the horses at the glue factory.

38. (*shine on*)

At face value
the souvenir

of walking
the gilded thought

shouldering the moon
of artifice

a big rock mountain
candida diaspora

cousins' campsite
the dream machine

of collective cooking
and running water

call it the artifake
of displacement

or Caesarian thought
butterfly of climate

this is the book
of harvest and movement

the Ireland
of perfect planning.

41. (*fetch*)

the puppet
has no shadow

forget the fetish
about the braids
the shoes
of denizenship
the fake object
refugee
from the sentence

Fetch!

some cord
the for in foreign
might get lost
in the grammar of nuevo
mimicry

(phantom immigrants
missing absence
fragment's proof)

what sheds the rain
on memory's mantle
what's outside
to draw whose strings
within

45. (*crutch*)

No gear in the shift
I am the hostage

No wine no country
No rain today

Another September
The unpractice of words

Not to answer is the rule
To think could this be the precipice

Or the detour of the anecdote
Listen, day breaks its fiction

The drum, the thunderstorm
Even the grinding traffic

Will pass to a blue sky
The unnecessary failure of morning

I was not kept in the castle
Nor felt an incandescent mark