

## Susan Musgrave / THE SHAMAN MOUNTAIN-GOAT

(When the song said "Smell of Asdi-wal!  
Smell of shamans! The shaman mountain-  
goat jumped right over his head.)

Look out — there is  
No light here.  
Prepare to burrow in —  
Sleep for awhile.

All winter we are hearing  
His cry — the old shaman  
Who sleeps in the earth.

*"Smell of Asdi-wal and smell of shamans, hau!"*

I thought of going in once,  
The ground was thawing.

Once this happened:  
The ground was breaking up.

I rose  
I spoke to the face of the mountain.

The old shaman was crying out —  
The mountain opened up.

*"Smell of Asdi-wal and smell of shamans, hau!"*

Now I am a man  
I wear this skin of goat.  
My people are afraid to look —  
They do not know my face.

They cannot make up their minds  
They do not speak to me.

When snow comes  
They will go inland

When snow comes to the mountain  
My footholds will be lost.