

Visions in the Shadows Cast by Self-immolation

I saw the seeds take root at the lakeshore

I saw the Gathering

I heard windchimes in the woods and

Names, names I could not pronounce but I knew were true

I saw Bears shed their skin,

Fungus sprouting from the bodies of worms, still squirming,

And a pyramid of pine needles burning in the rain

My nails turned translucent,

I felt sand under my tongue for three days

My left molars were missing

my blood tasted sour

like spoiled goat's milk, The blood was too red

I heard corpses breathing

I saw wolves lick clean the stones on the lakeshore where

Bluebirds were caught in spiderwebs in rows of

seven

The spiders brought bread and lichen to their beaks, their mouths, in single file

I heard scratching behind my walls and knew

they were spelling out names

On the hoofs of goats and deer stigmata appeared

Scars of flagellation on the backs of bulls and rams

and the shapes of trampled snakes

spelled out the name

Μόλοχ

Recalling my husband's final moments as he lay flayed smiling with lipless bliss

I carve names into my hands and arms, The blood was too red, The blood was too red

I slept on my kitchen floor for three days

Windchimes rang, mixed with static, when I closed my eyes

The black moon rose for seven nights

I heard my shower was running when no-one was home

mouldy tracks left right by the drain

Chimpanzees were in my mirrors

and in the lake, they swam to shore

Parasites burrowing deep beneath their nailbeds

I saw nine men *fuck* a dead bull

holes in its rotting flesh where they entered

I drank from the cup drank from the lake

And ate the fruit borne by antlers and horns

I saw the Gathering I saw the animals as they are

I saw the animals as we were

The elk ate the cubs of the bear and the pups of the wolf
 Their mothers watched in supplication as they starved and festered
While the Owl watched on with a crown of
 snakeskin and pine needles bound in spider silk

You tell me I haven't seen the truth?
 IborewitnessIborewitnessIborewitnessIborewitness
 You tell me I haven't seen?
 You tell me I haven't seen?