

Dialogue of Crane and Snake

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Crown's on the line borne earthward
cirrus-tethered true to

*gravities round
and other-*

form and feather a weight
descended from the scale I'm weighed

*wise a word
curls in*

and found wanted on
may be you're a spine in search of

*cavity a care
you're cured of*

pages may be a quiver
emptied of quills already all in flight

*no closer
this- our axis*

but bed's straw as yet in flower
and the vine's no stranger, here

*caught-footed
wrong*

where this fluted neck fills
and follows on, unflinches

*afield flat iron
instep opens*

hatching into all manner of matter-
of-fact this back and forth

*gait a baiting--
your battened*

line-by-line loosens the clench
eases how earth lets go

*door's ajar
benefit's a doubt*

catch as catch can updraft and root
branches into that thin soil

*I live within
and arise*

the air is that heavy sunlight
that catches every place at once

*circle only a
turn I turn*

and yields no quarter but
sticks a landing better than night's

*hinge-ribbed
bullwhip*

lodging my home here where I
find myself- you my first afterthought

*I'll be other-
wise elsewhere*

Seconds the only time I return for
trace a road to bring the house

wound red
word you read

down- a motion to table a motion
dance by way of language

gash-coil
load rachis

we need never speak (of) it
we're neither the other

*ends in teeth
fete goes*

or otherwise occupied
so by your lead I follow mine

*unremarked on
you to be*

groundward we are borne as though
gravity's less capricious

*underfoot then
wing leads on*

when the bearing's sound when
we take to wring and wrestle a mass

*to wing limn a-
ligned I'm*

without offering it anything
-even resistance- to a net loss I say

*a line and
two points*

invest with confidence you're
only currency for so long you know

*enough
to punctuate*

the rate at which exchange translates
to appreciation depends on what's

*being again
and begin*

to be surrendered and how the yield
opens new areas to exploit

*at my business
end fit*

go ahead take a stab at it- weak
returns before anywhere's arrived at

*the new skin
beneath*

but before you can play the numbers
you have to earn the form

*my skin
I crawl out of*

one and almost the same breath in I
better to catch I breathe I

follow I

shrink I

must know you as well as I
know my count my pulse's time I

follow I

enter I

rest with out ceasing I
beat the clouds beneath me I

yield I

meet I

sweep the field as discourse I
leave behind what's one and almost I

mark I

enter I

deal in a quick spread and shoot bright
through the mark I'm open and

*mistake a
breath for*

gone over all of a hinge and half-
sure of it even when it has no referent

*space less
in than*

water's a lattice that you and I
can't pass through even as it fills us in

*of a piece
with time's*

rather than up more and more cavity-
prone and supine a boundary shared apiece

*soft-footed
lockstep*

poor piss and my ball's all agog aghast ye
ratchet fellow narrowing this sphere's

*catch you
my drift*

edges smoothed away finally resolved at
once in kind I'm over you thinking

*draws
me around*

you're beneath me we're two
halves of the same question misheard

*I hem myself
in dig*

you run me ragged in the feather I pop
off and out of character sometimes don't I

*ribs deep
in the season*

laugh only because I recognize myself in
your scrimmage book little kisses

*the line's in
the sand*

slaying little hugs huddle my loaded
barrel balance against this sheet and I'll

*wherever I
am it's*

grant you no final rest leverage is falling
all over the ledger books bound and over-

*enough al-
ready I am*

determined let's start by calling it a day
other names we can arrive at another time

*for no-one
until crossed*

hierarchies of angles cry out from their axes
so hold tongue as you would your nose

*out and then
it's doubt or*

taste what chemicals air has to offer
bottoming out seeks new heights to press

*double or
nothing's*

an ear to here where every organ's
an instrument it's down to the pit to swing

*doing my
gut chord*

from the rafters so bone up, horizontal
as clouds go so go I redolent, monsoon-seeded

*strung I
strike through*

keep on creeping down it'll all eventually
return to the atmosphere as vapor I'll

*such a thing
as goes*

get under your skin as soon as you re-
move it cross-cut or at purposes

*unfound in
nature*

unplumbed in any direction here
roads turn skyward so tend a coil down

*straight
and narrow*

into the wet season we enter
Spring's not yet any warmer than silver

*of each
I'm neither*

tender or other whole-swallowed ciphers
warm the ground until bodies

*escape but stay
connected*

rise to the surface this new warmth
you're in for -it floods and fills the holds

*one train
and I'm on if*

tasked and mastered this ascent's one
tick up one punch's clock--

*not under
board line's a*

a face more to carry than you're
prepared to hope or care to account for

*fixed to
say or a scape*

but now we're even kin and kind-
heart a stone dropped under the mantle

searched heat
en-tongued

Crown's borne earthward cirrus-
tethered on the line to true

other gravities
and round

