Dialogue of Crane and Snake

James Maughn

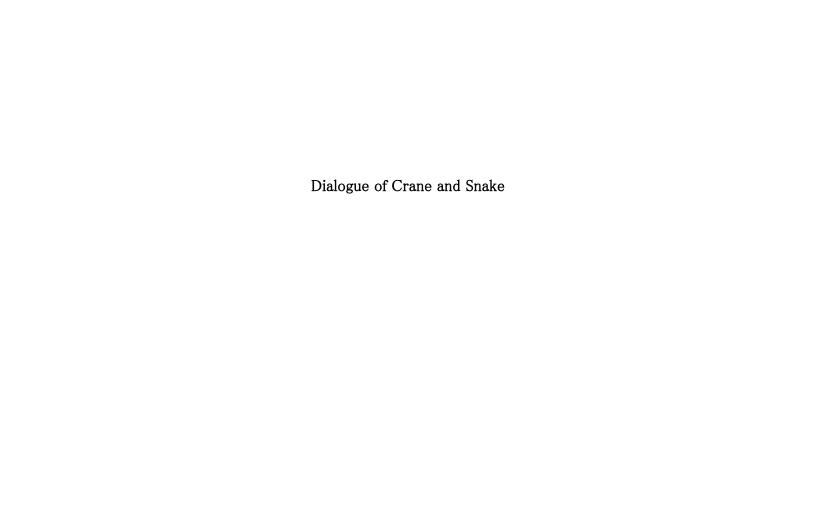
Dusie Kollektiv 2015/Embusan Press

© James Maughn, 2015

Dusie Kollektiv & Embusan Press



Thanks to rob mclennan, Susana Gardner and all the members of the 2015 Dusie Kollektiv



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 matterof-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 otherwise 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 aligned 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

shrink I follow I

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

enter I

follow 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

enter I

mark 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 halfsure 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 cavityprone 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 already 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 remove 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 kindheart a stone dropped under the mantle

searched heat en-tongued

Crown's borne earthward cirrustethered on the line to true

other gravities and round