

Expressing Trees by Default, 1-5

1

Pressing on less than sought, a more than provided expressive retrieval
drying until gasp, branch-particle speaks its soak-away

A maimed in trees unclaimed of their excision, seals the expression,
densities are not immensities the rejoinder to be pared as heard

cherished in-
visibly despaired
until expression does
its lesser appearance,
extreme non-clearance

expresses no self-
imputation, 'here
we alleviate' remains
raw, stands in the one
mention between them

charred project (voice)
inflames leavings, breath-
ings, cool canopy

Deters independent elation, conducts, conditions, sails expression by its one
bony thing, stipulates its stem

Nothing-bearing if not expressive repairs, what does implant if compressed
to spine lean savour of pause before life seeks sign

A germ of outgrowth or low-harm expression, no other real dimming: forest
 shade brittle buzz (bud) of tree-throat in default of any broader oncoming

Scarce sowing what to express of it as if compiled to an awkward
 recurrence, abbreviant tree interview

notched if capped
 no first *few* fruits
 until sapped (quoted)
 by expressing them

animate-immobile
 spread (spend) of
 signage, shared kinds
 of tree-flesh

forest clearance not yet
 taming the manifestation:
 empty enough on further
 utterable grounds

We have no other expression apart from what fields it speak not mute but
 making a brush of its discernment

What stammers universally unvagrantly migrant, advancing forest
 discretion at a leap of faulted root to be no matter but what the
 ramification whirls, tongues

Expressing-tree, slender quasi-participant, rooted across such co-remainder
parsings of as, but in direct sign (ring) of embodied branch

Not displaced in its ask a sign but reducible clearance in expressing a
contour the arcing gap hasn't become a tree's thing in itself

in full fault of its
counter-absents,
recess no larger than
meagre to woodland

a site which doesn't
exhaust its own
fleeing, every escape
is launched

expressing a nothing-
less as noontide
nod in branch

take meaning to be
a grounded vane in
woods, predicts the
chips blown onto
expression

Pressing on repose but not violating exposure, the contiguity which shows
off a perfected hurt, protected screech

Fissured meaning nearer than ever in what the trees seek out full spread
pronunciation

Express a tree suddenly pleat its own saturation delicate adjunct
 ramification through the scarings of rooted enough

No folding back into the flux of treeing without this stance newly
 unredundant tree-vocals, soughing verticals

questing in leaf-mode
 for stranger, un-
 stronger phrases

split the green gut
 into something within
 flame, but in plain
 recital

probes the parse of it-
 self, incomplete pause
 over the scarcely of
 an unwithdrawn

Acknowledge a tree and exfoliate its name what it doesn't say but reaches
 (branches) any account of perception remains under the bark, as
 expression is undetaining, not even reframing

A spectral name under eaves in leaf, let it alone with the forest conspectus:
 a formal virginity of world which trees will be the least to embrace, rather
 with murmur than for violation

What tree else is a sign's whole matter of construction? true tree
 distortion its tentative (radial) proportion

A holly-bush overgrows around its sensuous strict setting no weaving
 expressive weakness without mouthing trials of entanglement

treasure abstraction
 from primal stem,
 first chance choices
 of a stammering
 (uneliding) fork

these wants will have
 ground, if only for a
 single round: a voice
 wrinkles the trees

tree-naming
 for its enshrouded
 alternative

A tree column's consent or reprisal representation let it contain definition,
 offside attentive to semantic splay

Root-steps onto a slippage of world, stubborn arrest in default of assigned
 retention this has always spoken out its ravageful connection

[**Peter Larkin** contributed to *The Ground Aslant: an Anthology of Radical Landscape Poetry*, ed. Harriet Tarlo (2011). *City Trappings (Housing Heath or Wood)* was published in 2016, and *Introgression Latewood* in late 2017. A symposium on his work was held at Warwick University (UK) in 2018, the proceedings of which will appear in the *Journal of British & Irish Innovative Poetry*. A new collection, *Trees Before Abstinent Ground* is due from Shearsman in the autumn.]

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