

TO PLANKTON

tumbling like motes in an eye's cold prism
the multi-dimensional non-motile drifts
of diatoms jinking through benthic plasm
constellate fragments of starlight in rifts
as subdued as the night sky's deep and atlantean
gravities corralling dust clouds to maps
of compassless pyrenoids sequestering carbon
in scattershot nebulas of jet-propelled salps
where larvae of herrings and urchins revolve
in orbit around the ghost nets and nurdles
disjuncted from dead zones to gloam or dissolve
like space-junk a blank cyclorama encircles
with mass-shifting clusters of radiolarians
secreting dark silicas crushed down to aeons

LOXODROME

spread-eagled lines of flight assemble and diverge
or stray from inner distances longing to be
passively impelled by forces wandering at large
as dolphins hound the shadows of the sea's topography
and homing pigeons magnetised by highways that ring
around featureless landmarks and centreless parkland
dovetail the shearwaters' sun-paths encompassing
ambitless meridians their dead reckonings disband
as late-spawning salmon ramming trails of olfaction
through the river's upper reaches to a point of return
reconnoitre their journey like a bee's bright satellite
that pinpoints dark hives against the polarised azure
as wildebeest track down fresh scents of petrichor
and dung beetles navigate through ley lines of starlight

HYPHAE

with carbon as their currency networks of oaks
safeguard a lone common linden that convokes
instalments of conifers fostered by the elms
translocating minerals from morels to xylems
as fibre-optic filaments form a hyphal sheath
to remunerate the topsoil for centuries beneath
marcescent palimpsests of leaf-litter sinking
to the source of the rhizosphere interlinking
white-capped warheads and collared earthstars
with surrogate colonies of aspens and poplars
to compensate for deficits of phosphate with light
exchanged into stock at a root's frugal rate
before a coralroot orchid hacks the fungal net
that once more a sycamore's spin-offs remediate

[**Dominic Hand** is a 25-year old Irish writer based in the UK, whose debut collection *Symbiont: 50 Sonnets* was published with Veer Books in 2020. He read English at Oxford, where he won the Newdigate Prize for poetry in 2017, and then completed an MPhil in Criticism and Culture at Cambridge. He is currently a DPhil student at Merton College, Oxford, where he researches ecology and the nonhuman in contemporary experimental poetry. Parts of his forthcoming second work *Negative Corollary* recently appeared in an Earthbound Press pamphlet series, and his poetry has also appeared in various anthologies and journals including *Oxford Poetry*, *The London Magazine*, *Reliquiae*, *The Best New British and Irish Poets 2018*, among others.]