

## M

The Berkshire hills the book that opens  
again with each curve where the woods take back  
what they just said ditch lilies ditch lilies  
open orange eager in the Berkshires the mills  
are no longer milling paper milling wool  
they're milling memories of themselves  
as useful they mill this skein of highway clumps  
of lilies woolly thoughts the letter M its hieroglyph  
a set of Mediterranean waves and the Phoenicians  
who drew M first ship-makers wave-walkers  
consider them first looking out then in the mills  
are milling the Housatonic river it skims  
a thousand rocks is almost close enough to touch all  
landscape here is intimate hemmed in a book  
close to the face not *an open book* as we say  
more the way a baby sees from its mother's breast  
to her face and that is all an open book is  
one small room its talk a little talk its form  
reinforcement of five hundred years of private  
thought along with the invention of the separate  
room a sudden set of separate fires the ancient  
Berkshire hills their mills are milling spotted  
dairy cows and woolly sheep alphabet of camels  
oxen fish if my northern tribe had drawn M first  
M would have been a hieroglyph for *milk* the cows  
goats sheep they learned to drink from or starve  
*la mer, la mère* the sound of M for *mother*  
in nearly every language the early sounds a baby  
makes M for delicious the motor's hum delicious  
drowsing off the shape of these worn-down hills the mills  
mill poems walls of stone tonight they mill the stars  
M for *ma*, the Japanese idea of space  
and silence as a thing not absence on the radio  
today they talk about the death of books  
of spacious thought the book a footnote  
a single clump of lilies one river thread  
I think of books as milk from other animals

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