

The Seventh Lagoon

THE RING OF FIRE
THE RING OF WATER

Let me tell you a dream

I was in a stone space
that was an earth space
that was a wood space
that was the pillar of a faith

I was sitting on a redwood bench
a picnic bench
at a round oak table
with an assembly of others
who had no place to form
that I could discern

This was a flat
an examination of sorts
I guessed that I was in the looping
depth of water of rock and foliage
and the issue was whether
any communication at all
or any kind
could take place

I awoke knowing that
the business of the universe
is conducted
in an odd kind of dialog

For instance
I see the King of Shee
as a discourse between fire and rock
taking place mainly at their edge



How do we see the ring of fire
as the wave front
of an ocean of fire
beneath an ocean of water
mostly separated by rock

of course a more literal mind
could see the mountains
as both
on top of a wave of fire
moving at the speed of
one to ten centimeters
a year

and in less than a second
it can visualize any section
of the ring of fire
the level bench for instance
with the Pacific plate
subducting, upfling
the island thereby

and in less than a second
it can shrink the Pacific
by orders of magnitude
and make its size
no more than that
of an estuarial lagoon
with rivers feeding it
like tiny streams

in less than a second
it can imagine
a corresponding simplification
of bio-cultural complexities

But that would require
to orient the consciousness
around a different data base

Do you desire to begin another conversation
The I that at any moment
may answer yes
is itself a peculiar invention
which appears at birth
and disappears at death
This I is a peculiar invention
adapted at birth
and relinquished at death
it is invisible
but not indivisible
It is a theory
a convenience
an improvisation
a metaphor
this I like a moment
may have no existence whatsoever
This I like a moment
may be expanded indefinitely
like any moment
it may break into many moments
often I have the feeling that
I am in many conversations at once
as I catch myself thinking many thoughts
at the same time
often I have the feeling that I am
in many places at the same time
My consciousness may be intermittent
yet with the intermissions so brief
that awareness seems continuous
My present may well be intermittent
I improve it
by successively reframing moments
with such speed
that now seems continuous
and I desire
to begin another conversation

sometimes a forgetting takes place
and I fall into monology
repeating myself endlessly
falling into monology is pleasant
it is bearing continuous approval
expecting continuing applause
Yet such falling into monology
will self-cancel
as the energies available
are consumed
then a forgetting again takes place
and I remember that dialoguing
is very pleasant
and that being in dialog
is self-mourning
self-cleansing
self-adapting
yet how can I be in dialog
with that with whom
I have no points of similarity
Develop empathy
and construct patterns of similarity
thereby
Yet
the business of today
does not encourage empathy
nor awareness of mind
rather the business of today
encourages replacement and change
It is conducted
as a technological monology
spoken so rapidly
that the consequences of an improvisation
most often
cannot be seen at its inception



Sometimes I dream of the water buffalo
in its wallow in the banks
the one that ran about of the gasoline engine
and is being replaced by the tractor
Now that tractor cannot replicate itself
nor provide milk nor killing weeds or weed
nor produce fertilizer and fuel with its dung
yet the tractor would really
the tractor is a good invention
an improvement that will enhance
the state of farming it is more efficient
it can cover more ground in a day
it is modern and cheap and helps
bring people into the technological domain

Not in good places
The buffalo and its wallow still continue
their several thousand year-old discourse
their collaboration
and one of the consequences of redirecting their discourse
into a technological discourse
will be a peculiar subtraction of possibilities
for gone will be the fish
that eats the larvae of the malaria mosquito
while itself serves as a source of protein
and gone will be the worms eating snake
that lives in the wallows surround
while fertilizers will be added
and insecticides and herbicides
and the refugees will disappear
although the tractor is not good for the land
and the buffalo will yield to that tractor
although the buffalo usually
is more efficient and its digestion and
more useful

Clearly there is something about technology
that does not like that which is not itself
yet this is not a necessary condition
this unfriendliness to the land

One morning we heard the green engines
increase in heat decrease in ice
increase in water decrease in land

Ice into water water to ice
state change change of state

increase in heat increase in ice
decrease in water increase in land

Melt at the south pole ice at 14
means ice into water not water to ice

so increase in heat decrease in ice
increase in water decrease in land

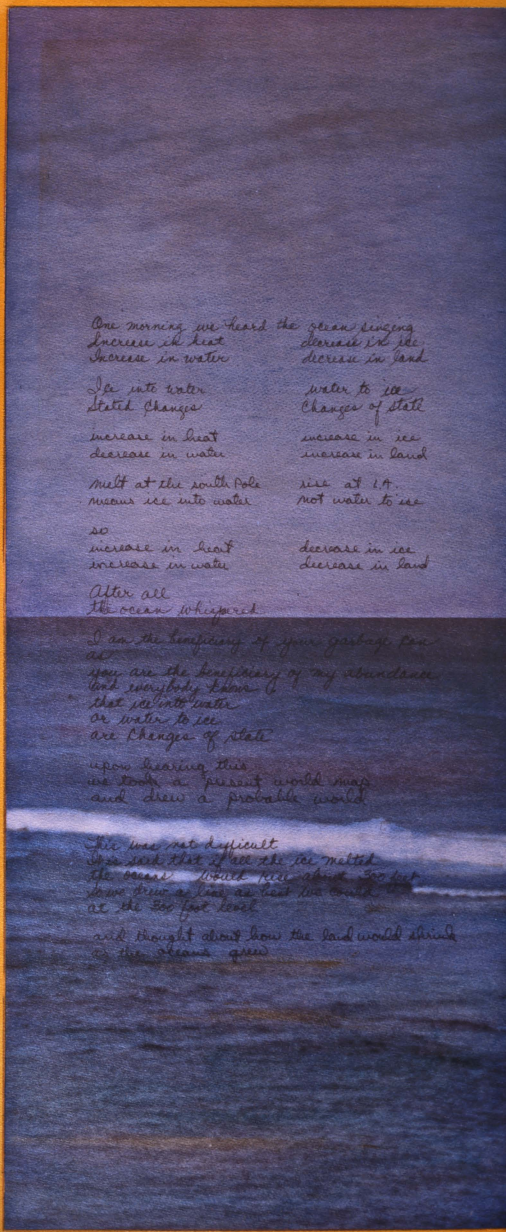
After all
the ocean whispered

I am the beneficiary of your garbage too
at you are the beneficiary of my abundance
and everybody knows
that ice into water
or water to ice
are changes of state

upon hearing this
we took a present world map
and drew a probable world

This was not difficult
We said that if all the ice melted
the ocean would rise about 500 feet
above the level as low as the land
at the 500 foot level

and thought about how the land would shrink
as the ocean grew





and
the waters will rise slowly
at the boundary
at the edge
restraining that boundary
continually
moment by moment
all over
altogether
all at once

It is a graceful drawing
and he draws
this response
to the millions of the melting fire

and
as the waters rise slowly
in the Red sea the dead sea
the caspian the north
the Baltic and the Black
the ocean gates
will redraw themselves
as will the currents and tides

And
over time gracefully
the rivers will slowly flow
up every river
that once flowed down
to the sea

and
each fresh water tongue
will with draw
before the advance of the salt

as
the salt goes
up the saint Lawrence
the Columbia the Amazon
the Hudson the Ohio
the Mississippi
the white Nile and the blue
the Congo the Congo
the Danube
and the Rhine
the Rhine and the Loire
the Rhine the Rhine
and the Sarona
the Rhine the Rhine
the Congo
the Congo and the Congo
the Congo the Congo
the Congo the Congo
the Congo the Congo
and the Congo
the Congo the Congo
and all the rivers
renewed and unnamed

and the flood plains
that are formed upon
and level upon
will become marshes or swamps or lagoons
or beds for swollen rivers
or shallow inland seas





and the tropics
will become uninhabitable
and the far north
will become temperate
and corn, rice, wheat and beans
plantain, maize and yams
and all the grains and starch crops
known and unknown
named and unnamed
will have to grow elsewhere than now
and most life
Insect and mammal
man and woman
will have to go elsewhere than now
as vast parts of the eastern seaboard
of North America
and parts of Europe
and the North Sea
and South America near the Amazon
and China in the east
and Russia in the north
India in the northeast
and other bits of Asia, Africa,
Polynesia, Melanesia,
Australia and even Japan
will join the growing sea.

And in this new beginning
the continents, beginning
you will see the
where my lands can no longer produce
and I will leave you
when your lands take counsel with water
and together
we will withdraw
as the waters rise.

