

## Lessons from the Forest

1A

I need to set some boundaries  
I want a separation. I need to know where I end  
If there are no edges how do I know where I am

Why can't it be black and white  
Can't we have the old borders back  
Isn't there a way to have them but not hurt anyone  
I don't want it to be so grey

everyday I go into the forest  
I try to stay on familiar trails  
but when I think of you I get turned around  
and I don't know where I am anymore  
I forget  
I don't know where the edge is

if I lay down a while  
I don't really care

but then I'm cold  
and my instincts tell me to get up

I'm not a pig  
I'm not a dolphin  
I'M A HUMAN

why can't I touch anything without it changing

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1B

An ecosystem consists of both biotic and abiotic factors. We are biotic in that we live and we die. To be abiotic is to never live, like a stone a stream or a mountain. Within an ecosystem both biotic and abiotic elements will affect change upon the other in a complex web of relationships.

In a forest  
the ecosystem relies on species diversity  
to continually evolve under  
changing environmental conditions.

An abiotic disturbance like  
drought  
or climate change  
will impact a monoculture more harshly.

It lacks the creativity to respond.  
It is inflexible in it's ability to adapt  
in time.

A diverse community will suffer lower mortality due to the variance among it's  
members.

In some cases disturbance is essential for growth.

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2A

I am not myself

I'm not feeling myself

my  
self

My mouth moves  
but no words come out  
only sounds

mind soup pulse  
street foam car lynx  
lamp book key zoo ship  
weed cow cow train grass  
stick stick stick stick  
snag stump seal snag  
rock king crane tree  
tree tree self tree tree self

finch oil oil ox  
oil oil ox  
ox bird oil rock  
ox sun snag star  
ox ox ox  
ox bird  
ox self sun star

moon moon  
rock bird star  
moon wind  
mind soup  
mind soup pulse

moon moon moon  
moon moon

crack sea

snow word

sky

sky

sky

— — — —

2B

Plants are sessile, they remain in one place.

They use wind, fire, insects and animals to spread their seeds.

Lichen is a plant made up of three unique organisms.

It grows most readily where the air is free of toxins.

Growing in the canopy of trees,  
it provides essential Nitrogen  
for the forest below.

Lichen consists of algae, fungi and cyanobacteria working together in symbiotic relationship.

Plants have evolved complex strategies to survive both biotic and abiotic factors.

Collaboration, not competition increases survival in the forest.

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3A

What does it mean  
I am not myself

Am I selfless  
I need to set some boundaries  
what kind of enlightenment is this

Words come out of my eyes  
You tilt your head to understand

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3B

Through a process known as photosynthesis plants provide the oxygen we need to survive.

Photosynthesis requires water, light and carbon dioxide. Inside the leaves of a plant are chloroplasts which contain thylakoid stacks.

Light and C-O-2 combine in a chemical reaction that splits the water molecule

releasing the Oxygen  
we need  
to breathe

while making sugar

which plants use  
for food.

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4A  
This thing you told me I could have  
if only i was good enough  
strong enough  
right

it was is was blindness  
I could close my eyes and sleep  
and dream of you

somewhere else  
some other  
better place  
that was still there  
despite the wreckage  
it existed

it was  
it was never  
really there

this  
here  
this

US

SO  
MUCH

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4B  
A forest is an open system

External factors become internal  
Rings of influence multiply  
Unfolding  
and folding  
into the system  
spreading  
contracting  
expanding  
rippling  
out  
forever

Beyond words  
beyond species  
beyond knowing  
beyond meaning

there is no edge.

Sasha Petrenko, 2015