

A Beyond Empire Amidst Empire

Original from stucco, cement, lime, brick, bone, blood, resin, glue, kill floors
Medicine touching qualities of ginger syrup, Sweet Fern, Madeira, deadly potions, secret
knowledge, magical invocation
Capable for a beggar's purse, concubine, condor of the Andes, lens, riddle, fossil shell
Our sovereign's history thronged by her retinue of stags, stallions, hares, hounds, railcars,
steamboats, African antelopes, war trumpets, massacres, agents, encyclopedias
A slave syllabic stratagem then following
Long ago, a poem in The Palace of Justice celebrating sea, land, flow, flux
At home in your spirit chamber amongst needlepoint, violins, concertinas, coverlets, ivory
combs, with a letter after some mythical truth about indigo-blue deserts, The Pyramid of the
Sun, Coatlicue, jadeite, golden thorns, a hidden Codex
But not concerning larvae of the flesh-fly, plagued Eucharists, bleeding gums, countersigns,
silver curses, the spirit-flight of slain Indian children atop Chihuahuan ravens, the wild Snow
goose's icy cry