

# ARMED

JESUS SAID: The images are manifest to man and the Light which is within them is hidden in the Image of the Light of the Father. He will manifest Himself and His Image is concealed by His Light . . . When you see your likeness, you rejoice. But when you see your images which came into existence before you, which neither die nor are manifested, how much will you bear!

JESUS SAID: Know what is in thy sight, and what is hidden from thee will be revealed to thee.

*The Gospel according to Thomas.*

# DESCENT

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**HAWK'S WELL PRESS**



Cover design by Jerome Rothenberg from Aztec drawings in the Codex  
Mendoza

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PUBLISHED BY HAWK'S WELL PRESS, 50 BROADWAY,  
NEW YORK 4, NEW YORK, AND  
PRINTED BY THE KERRYMAN LTD., TRALEE, IRELAND

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FOR JOAN

*there is a lake of sparrows  
bells are clapping in their throats*

*no interruptions  
the hours and the bell*

*on the last day of another month  
cranes flew north  
their beaks filled with eclipses*

*a sundial at the center*

*planet of deer bellowing in forests  
the apple trees in the rain  
the silences  
quickly  
with leaves*

*to make everything over  
make them sing with their tongues*

## HOW IT FELL

and came down running  
on her feet and in her broad skirt  
visual and strong: a breath

which God gives us desert  
gemstones in sand  
the plenum: the fulness of the  
work accomplished the crystal  
marriage over: seeds and babies  
in the rock

wind makes sand out of  
and her feet: and her pelvis  
an organization of related parts  
moving in waste

your desert: sky attend us:  
and moving on to the next town  
'where they carry the gold  
down into the mines' visual and like  
a brick of pure refined gold  
that kind of town

with white trees and a slow stream  
and moving out in the night  
quickly over the desert: good news:  
God has come into this rock  
and behooves motion: on the highway  
bearing her seed in him  
and again the rites on the  
outskirts of town: the curious animals



wind resting in air:  
break off the bits of rock: here  
    turning remorselessly  
into an animal  
and in  
the next town he closed his eyes  
    hearing the good news grow  
feet moving in her body  
being able to run faster than God  
hearing the babies cry in the fields  
    the rooted bodies  
twisted roots of their legs  
    alive.

## EARLY ONE EVENING

Early one evening before the moon before precise dark  
    I came to see what the tiger-lily prefigured  
    how it grew on the black wall  
and the petals not one color but many colors growing there  
were hard as the bite of a jellyapple only that first  
red intense crackling glacier of the first bite you were  
    as hard as that first bite  
and when the teeth penetrated gave willingly of your fruit  
    sweetened under the crust  
over the fibrous core early before the moon before I  
    brought precise darkness to stiffen your surrender  
it is easy to see your hair as a ship full of banners  
    signal flags of piracy and surrender run up in  
    the still warm air  
and the petals as petals opening from the bud  
    opening to a calm hand  
opening over the hard fruit that cannot stop ripening  
apples and moons growing rounder as they  
are taken into the dark



## 'I SEE THEM WALKING IN AN AIR OF GLORY'

I see their faces  
as I saw before the fall  
flowers distilling brass,  
raindrops hardening in rock  
a naked sight  
of the bright neck's causeway  
over shoulders and breasts  
the ores of their mines  
turning to azurite  
the sky's carapace  
their day is one long  
daybreak of their new sun,  
northern lights on the  
body's wholeness  
where rabbits and roebucks  
run quietly on the belly's plain  
till the torso softens  
to the loess of flesh,  
their peaceful hands are  
married by roaring  
bells under rainfall,  
foliage stands singing  
midsummer thighs burn  
like flowering judas  
they are golden in seelight  
the anvil that will form  
them has not been cast.

## PARALLEL TEXTS

### Figure

If her neck is  
if her lips were  
Egypt

curve of her  
pubis convexed  
by two small bones

and call her rump  
Arabian

vase of  
flower

of the carpel  
of her sex: stir  
red  
yielding to dark:  
the corolla.

### Figure

into this chest of spices  
step  
into this brown zodiac

the great mystery  
rocking on her heels

and oregano these green leaves  
can they be  
in the jar in the jar  
mountain grasses  
oregano?

she  
in one place or another  
enclosing  
a chest of spices.