

## VIII

### JESUS CRIED OUT IN A LOUD VOICE

ἐβόησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς φωνῇ μεγάλῃ  
(Mark 15.34)

they think he is calling for Elijah  
because when Elijah was hungry you sent him ravens  
now he says, I thirst  
and your silence says, εἰς κόρακας

and to the ravens he goes  
roaring hoarse with the voice we lost, shaking  
the firmament of the black heavens with  
the question we dared not say aloud  
answering it for ourselves:  
*because we were not worth saving*

and he dies with his thirst unquenched  
his question floating on the darkness like an ark  
until we make a window  
and send out a raven  
to fly back and forth  
while the waters dry from the face of the earth

we rest our chins on the windowsills, watching  
them row their way above the waves  
and we remember his words: κατανοήσατε τοὺς κόρακας  
Notice the ravens  
before the doves, before the olive leaves  
Notice the ravens

εἰς κόρακας: to the ravens (with you), i.e. go hang