

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