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daguerreotype of sleep

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daguerreotype of sleep

where there's sleep
 a cat cleaning herself
 or an idea of one
thought enters the way
 a person enters

 before a line of one-handed mercury i stand
wish the pages could be turned
leave it untempered
 its time has passed its time passed

should i have stayed?
should've slept and laid my head on the table
 a thousand white dresses a million soarings of the heron
the wing of an orchid on my plate
& then i thought of the ordinary life

a handprint something made something forced
something betrayed
on a mountain range of mid winter
a slaughter we're sleeping
a shirt full of laughter

your future in space
& a line (it will not happen)
a blue jay an odor
i suppose tonight is the end
a word with you is a season entire

alone go to the mountains

in an awkwardness
with no way out the spell of life
take something a pill

we're not sleeping our hands
wringing