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## Just under the sternum, where the unspeakable

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Just under the sternum, where the unspeakable

was sentenced, swarm of small stinging ants  
high in the rib tree, furious surge  
choked back, red-declarative at the throat-jamb,

where it couldn't be spoken and needed  
to be killed and couldn't  
be quenched, the inflamed places  
at the end of wondering How  
to be thrown, if from nothing,  
at least toward somewhere,

that strain

where it couldn't be asked, where it's replaced  
if you name it—swallowed  
down the theoretical hush, where the dendrites are  
and the neurons fire—

that burn

you can't chart, can't demonstrate, the unkillable *in*

where everything, willow neuron invisible  
illness volume integral hungering freefall

just to exist has to flicker and sear  
in an ether all thirst all heat all feel—