**After an All-night Rain**

**(Remembering Dante)**

Do not forget to mark my passage

Watch as I move through tall grass and honeysuckle vines

Breathe, breathe as you pass through the woods.

Feel the air that thickens with heavy rains

Squat low and search for broad plants under sheltering trees

Do not forget to mark my passage.

Reach out, mingle the poison ivy vines

with the strong-scented honeysuckle tangles

Breathe, breathe as you pass through the woods.

Trace the withering crimson tips of white flowers

on the hardened muddy knoll

Do not forget to mark my passage.

Move your feet quietly this morning

past the sleeping dogs on the hillside

Breathe, breathe as you pass through the woods.

Listen as a small dog barks twice

in the darkened room where my mother turns in her sleep

Do not forget to mark my passage.

Breathe, breathe as you pass through the woods.