1986

Ants And Worms, Part I

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Cover Page Footnote
Appeared in the issue: 1986.
in Paris

a warm in the sun
slap in the face
winter afternoon
blue-washed by altitude
I gape my fill of Sacre-Coeur
I am sixteen
and seek myself
everywhere
I wander away
to a brown garden path
a hushed a private path
an old man approaches
a cat in his arms
a cat at his feet
this must be his path
he is all brown except
for one milky cloud
a galaxy spins in his eye
he begs a franc or two
I tell him
Je n'ai pas d'argent

he must have known I lied
we stood side by side
watched the cats play
he was grampa
he was Charon,
a derelict
anything I
could not
touch

I come away filled with
brown words for a journal
and a tightly rolled
Montmartre portrait
of me
tapping against my thigh

K. H.

Ants and Worms, part I

heart of tree
beat
in seed
soft
by soil
tilled
by ants
who walked the soil
round the seed
so that the heart
could beat up into body

Rob Cullivan

Published by Fisher Digital Publications, 1986