

ALICE NOTLEY

## *Victorious*

Honey leader honey from the lion's body I bring you  
A food or mental substance a knowledge from the sup-  
posed realm of wordlessness the opposite of me  
Honey leader honey your hair is growing around  
Mirrorshades the only thing I see is a vibrant word is it  
A word if I know it flash not reading it  
Saying it without saying it with lips or brain but  
Being honey you should see there's no one here but everyone

I wanted to forget them blindly when the world began again  
My double honey stark as a burnt tree when I spoke  
Flash and I saw how wrong everybody had been  
In the old times when all we created was decorative  
If I might destroy the old you I'm extracting power from which  
Self in order to stand for a moment above you hold-  
ing my bone club my weapon of greeting hello honey  
You will not go on the way you have your tone  
Of voice silly and maudlin pompous and demanding  
You must now learn from this word wedge your new art

Honey as leader honey I am your mind leading  
You can hear me we stand counting nothing not know-  
ing numbers anyone forgot them to beg to be home  
Here we are numb for I've destroyed and rebirthed you honey  
You have nothing but this vibration we are speaking almost silently  
You have nothing but this opposite of what you were this moltenness  
None of you my friend but I've led you to your own heart  
A place where no one has to know their words or  
Counterparts anymore your stories were invented in dreams  
Your eyes were full of unsubstantial legends you'd made up  
And attributed to the fabricated bastards your heroes of millions  
They were just you I've ripped them out your soreness is freedom

Honey leader I'm and learning a language from which you  
Can know all others only two native speakers left I and  
I and the I that has taken over now shows you the grid of re-

Newal it's a shaky grid the cracked syntax of an earthquake  
Honey leader it will slow down and flow like honey  
After we agree to speak darkly or densely honey leader grid  
This language might tear you but you're already torn  
No no overlay all language comes from here  
Find it at this time clutching the damage we came from  
Its innard strings I pull it apart and it refigures I'm yours  
What are your verbs and nouns I am a conglomerate of anything  
I speak for a joining of the already contiguous I  
Am how we cohere mind after death pushing outward honey lava

I am your leader says the language or I the  
Quintillionth and first I the verb I the noun the pronominals  
My death I honey leader honey calls out silently to  
Other honey the grid flows like aftermath  
I didn't ask says the universe to be born  
And death says I may have asked to die but I can't and we  
The dead don't die living on speaking origin that  
You'd think of as grid never been such the part of  
Speech is to join us in mentality I am the serenest  
Samson you might know after I destroy us  
Why does it begin in violence because you named it violence  
But now you have no nervous system to hurt you

Honey leader honey uncarved again with phantom pain  
Today's my brother's birthday do I still remember everything  
But it's my day he says I'm finally reborn sis honey  
That's an aside or double a twin of telepathy  
We have come to the fact of the solution honey leader un-  
Named shapes call out that we didn't know everything to see  
Now we're inside the words we'd catch hold of  
We have never heard of governance I tell us I  
The leader the Samson who judged us sad and inept trivial  
Washed-up smothered souls groping  
You had to follow me past the store of limp spangled dresses limp  
Weapons my cudgel is pure like a torch my hair's like gray fire  
Inside this honey flow where the language is find-  
Ing its nearly unfashioned form its deeper hues  
My brother's new peace the source of our plan to go on

Leader my shell is empty or it's all stony dark green  
The money was nothing the clothes were vapid the poems of  
Others dimming in force the money was nothing a joke  
All the money in the world a joke though the sorrow real leader  
Honey leader honey power's the only thing we are an ac-  
Cumulation of first matter hollow electric and calm  
I know what it is I say I know where we are and are going  
We are rearranging origin its glyph and its home  
We are rearranging the night plan I honey leader honey  
Am calling reality now it responds to me

We are calling you to us I and what was once fate the body  
But is now my own malleability the light staring  
Or is it something I would recognize just who I am  
I want you to see it inside the beginning in our  
Composite meaning as for the pre-beginning honey  
I pulled down the ceiling so we wouldn't have dimensions or scale  
Then there was pure action in death which is truth I  
Honey and leader am left on the river but I have the boat  
Whoever left me for trivia but I have the boat or  
Leadership the honey songs beguiling you to start again

Maintaining our connection that is our universe  
We are the power we stand in pre-power the whole thing  
Before the shell body honey power wouldn't you like to  
Act now for the sake of action not knowing why  
Without an accrued meaning with words that don't  
Drag leavage after them I acted honey leader  
Honey without any motive for I was not enacted  
And I arrange reality a certain way that's all  
With the hands of one of my bodies coincident in me  
All night I arrange things without known names or shapes  
Put on your irreal shades honey leader be opaque again we are  
Ready everyone everything here inside the connection

Last night you were with me because I was broken and good  
And you say you are with me because I've got enough honey for you  
Matter or mentality becoming words for anyone in any lan-  
Guage or stillness we are forming entities for each other

Here in the primal blast moltenness we have arrived at  
Hurt from prior eons ready for the mind or dream that acts  
I birth new forms hopeless and free any rock  
Any rock has a new name and I have one too honey leader honey  
What shall we do together with these new minds and have  
Accepted nothing have not seen or heard it haven't re-  
Acted honey leader haven't judged or been taught  
We are making what we are just that