

## THE PEACOCK

Kneel down to remove the stones.  
When the sharp beak descends  
to deep blood, the headgear of  
the dark blue goddess Saraswatī  
instantly covers the sundrops.  
In the copper eyes of the rowers,  
secret pollen gradually fills up  
with weapons. This peacock memory  
from the monsoon month's dance  
before the festival of *Jhulan*  
can by its lack of action pick up  
the cloud-drum's death. The quiet sun  
will sink behind the old rope.  
Beside the rowers' heads, some extra-  
mnemonic axe is being removed;  
in the sharp beaks, anti-blood  
and non-solar solitude, blood  
coming up with all its roots.

*Note: Jhulan:* A festival celebrating the love of Radha and Krishna, occurring in Śrāban, the second monsoon month (mid-July to mid-August). *Jhulan* means swing; the couple is depicted swinging together, pushed by the *gopīs*, the cowherd maidens.

*Saraswatī:* the goddess of wisdom, is always depicted with white skin. Her dark blue color here associates her with both Krishna and the black-skinned Kālī, the goddess of death and destruction.