**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.