



HUMANA

Adebe

DeRango-Adem

POEMS

VOX HUMANA

A large, dark grey, stylized letter 'Q' that serves as a background graphic. The letter is composed of a thick circular stroke and a short tail that extends downwards and to the right. The word 'HUMANA' is centered within the white circular area of the 'Q'.

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POEMS

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for the silenced & clairaudient amongst us

*As all the Heavens were a Bell,
And Being, but an Ear,
And I, and Silence, some strange Race
Wrecked, solitary, here –*

—Emily Dickinson (“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain”)

*if you wd have me speak
you must learn the tongue of my dead & loved ones
i have been left behind
a survivor
holdin out for more*

—Ntozake Shange (“for my dead & loved ones”)

vox vōcis, f. (connected with *voco*), a *voice, cry, call*.

(1) of things, *sound, tone*;

(2) *a thing said with the voice, a saying, utterance, formula, magic incantation*.

FUGUE I

inspire (v.)

mid-14c., *enspiren*, “to fill (the mind, heart, etc., with grace, etc.)”; also “to prompt or induce (someone to do something),” from Old French *enspirer* (13c.), from Latin *inspirare* “blow into, breathe upon,” figuratively “inspire, excite, inflame,” from *in-* “in” (from PIE root **en* “in”) + *spirare* “to breathe” (see *spirit* (n.)). The Latin word was used as a loan-translation of Greek *pnein* in the Bible. General sense of “influence or animate with an idea or purpose” is from late 14c. Also sometimes used in literal sense in Middle English. Related: *Inspires*; *inspiring*

TO BUILD OUT OF NECESSITY out of this *hisssssssss*
 grrrrr-gle (stifled— / muffled)
 cry for a worthier world
 tenacious & not so
 out of breath
 to build out of survival's ruins. a *lingua*
 a *langue* "in other words"
 a long line
 of echoes / lineages
 fighting for
 auricular coherence
 & yet a type of peace when you
 hear that unmistakable
 key / of variegated & unenglish sounds
 received in the ears as jewels
 / small prisms abstracted
 from the heavy
 peninsulas
 we slipped / from
 we didn't land
 to craft some humdrum idiom
 from some *ho-hum* lips
 this is / a script
 a will to reach chest-first
 into the wise voluminous
 nest of glimmering

verbs / to will the word
 per word
 story of
 what comes next

 but first to recant
 what preceded
 what was lost
 / be(come) witness
 to a new metrics
 that renews
 & renames you
 says you

 matter says to you on the down lo of yo self-
 self / lo
 & behold

 even when you are
 forced into the marginalia
 / you are building yourself

 an exit
 out of the domain of unsaid
 things

 / to declare & round
 them
 up one by one

 until they form
 a makeshift drum
 / *beating beating* in the jewel
 of your ear

familiar

yet emergent

present

/ yet

yet

(to go bold into the / yet to be
heard of

is the only home

I've known)