

Eleni Sikelianos

Come to me

the future comes to me
with a horrifying screech
then it comes to me softly
like a weeping cloud
and it comes to me like
a fish, glass-eyed, flopping
and it comes to me erotically
meanly & sharp
it comes to me cashed out rolling
 electronically

in my future life I was
a cowboy, killed
in a bar fight

a flamingo in the snow

from ***The Loving Detail of the Living & the Dead*** (dernier recueil, p.60)

I want to tell you about the dream. The California is a paradise lake with colorful animals dream.
The when I go back to my homeland California is a paradise I am happy for you dream

We were going ever so through the dusty eucalyptus the dusty eucalyptus & shadow road in the
"opposite of blindness" & "relinquished speech"

The lake is to the left. On one side, a tall Pink bird invented by space and time called

Flamingo, & there, other small & medium birds shiny & loose
with pockets of Geryon-ash-gold What can be lit I'll light that I'll light that for you dream

a kissing everything good-bye in the ballad's hide & an eye

of spit

a thoin gutterful of vowels
out of the battery & ground

in the teeth, death
in the bush, 2 in the hand
in the nape of the napalm of sun-shore-sun I am an orphan! dream

from ***The California Poem*** (p.12)

from *Earliest Worlds* (pp.133-135)

ORIGINS: My Life in Moving Pictures

If I'm a leaf I'm a leaf If you're a
tree I'm illegitimate

I remember the very day I discovered it
(yesterday)

A PLAY:

(My father plays the part of the speaker. If the father is not available, anyone
will do—hang this sign around the actor's neck: The Author's Father)
(curtains)

Hello, Birds. Hello! Hello!

(Birds "have little to say")

Birds! I say! Are you having a
party, birds?

(Here, the camera records several bird subjects through
the reeds, the reeds bob with their weight & deafening
twitter)

BIRDS!

(Birds are noisy among the weeds, above
the marsh, red-winged blackbirds are,
but do not answer)

Birds! Vultures with metacarpals
built like trusses on aircrafts & bridges, birds with certain
wing-load-to-weight ratios, birds who carry
booty in their beaks & birds Black-capped & air that allows them
Blue-footed, iridescent of the head, slipping through, Herons with
sleeking feathers, who's your father, who? Birds, "My question, answer

in the fewest words,
what sort of life is it
among the children
of the birds?