***The Other Noah*** o

o 

 o

*It is rising in the water.*

 What is rising?

*Ascending into air.*

 ית What is ascending?

*Into the watery firmament.* אר

 What is bobbing on the water?

*Something uncanny.* ي

 ي Animal, vegetable, mineral?

*A pale balloon* ي

 *sacred to air, sacred* ي**רפ**

טביעה

 *to nothing.* ك

*Do you remember sinking?* Backwards, eyes

 Ψ looking up at the surface.

*You saw there was a sky*

 *below the sky.* An underwater sky.

*What did you see above the water?* Forms moving,

 תפ whiteness. Wavering.

*And their gestures?*

 Some distant solicitation,

 **ي** it could not reach me.

*You had sunk too deeply*. 

 ῶ They moved as I imagine angels

 move, indistinctly,

 **הלך** in another element.

*Or like?* 

 Like surgeons in white masks,

  seen through ether.

*But distant.*

 **σ** Very distant.

*You sank slowly.*  *n e*

 Past pillars of kelp,  *a g*

  suspended *ua*

 in cathedral light.  *f r*

*Did you settle?* β

In a sad luxuriance. The child stretches on his deathbed.

*Dreaming?* Ω

 He dreams the water.

 The water dreams him.

*What does the child see?* ξ

 Fish rushing through

 Ψ the husk of a trawler.

 **Scaly gold** pouring

 in and out of portholes.  ******ω

*He floats beneath our prayers.*

*Look how he adorns Death’s body.*  Ancient treasure.

*Who could count grief’s blessings?*  I have only ten cold fingers. 

*That whiteness you saw…* I was afraid. Because…

*There is no cause to fear.*  **ς**



*It is only* 

 *the shadow of the rainbow.*  The skeleton of light.



*The name*

 a

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 o

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a a a

 n n n

 c c c

 h h h

 o o o

 r

 *of a pale undulation* **ξ**

*of amino acids*

*is anemone.*Waterflowers sway

 gravely on their stems.

*Wavering is their decision.*

 The water seconds it.

*Who would have thought*

 *there was such strength*

 *in wavering?*

 فبای I fear for my mates—

 the wind is mad, and the water!

*I was already drowned*

 *before hands lifted*

 *saw and hammer.*

*I am the other Noah.*

 Why do you hide your face

 in shadow?

 Why are you so tall?

ἁλί φθορία

*To reach down my staff* لف

 *and strike the bottom* **אָלֶ**

*of the world. To startle* لف

 *a flounder, ripple the oil*

 *in a whale’s bone.* ת

 *A ray, a heavy ray, flaps by,*

*dove of the depths.* o When the flood came

 o what did you see?

*A mountain shrinking* o

 *up into an island. I watched*

*the water tremble over* *t e u*

*a pinpoint peak. The mountain*

 *remembered its secret.* I am afraid. *b*  *t*

 *b a t*

*Do not be afraid.* o *s e a u*

*Come into my stone boat.* b a n No, I am not ready.

 *It is here.*

 h u s **No.**

*It was built for you.*

 *Not with hands, but with*

 *the idleness of hands.* Leave me. I must

 think this over.

*It has come for you.*

 *It was built to drown*

*fear. Sink past*

No.

 *the storm’s reach!* No.

*Sink slowly.* **No!**

 

*Look, we are passing*

 *the City of Coral.*

 I cannot look.

*******Look at the teeth,* ♫

 *the bulbs of the eyes* ♫ It is not me.

*It is you, but you are no longer yours .*

**ὀkσnτoέchονen**

**ὀk σnτoέchονen**

 ♫ Go away!

*My shoulder is strong.*

 It is heavy.

*Do not be afraid. Water* **♫**

 *is a thing in the water.*

  θ

*There is water under* ά  ض *the water. Repeat after me:*  ν ς

 There is water α τ ο

 under the water

*It washes ashore*

 *and it washes the shore* It washes ashore

 *and it washes ashore* and it washes the shore

and it washes ashore

*We are walking on the bottom* **ي**

 *of the ocean.* I am tired.

 So tired.

*I will take you to the Cave of Sleep.*

 *Take me to the Cave of Sleep*.

*I am the other Noah.*

 ض **संस्कृतम्**

*Noah of no heir. No air*.

 **ج**

*Come into my stone boat.* *Where?*

*It is here. Now.*

***Nowhere****.*

**