

Hearing Still

Also by George Messo:

Poetry

From the Pine Observatory (2000)

Entrances (2006)

Translation

A Leaf About To Fall: Selected Poems – İlhan Berk (2006)

Madrigals – İlhan Berk (2008)

Book of Things – İlhan Berk (2009)

İkinci Yeni: The Turkish Avant-Garde (2009)

& Silk & Love & Flame – Birhan Keskin (2010)

In Turkish

Aradaki Ses (The In-Between Voice, 2005)

Avrupa'nın Küçük Tanrıları (The Little Gods of Europe, 2007)

HEARING STILL

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Shearsman Books
Exeter

Published in the United Kingdom in 2009 by
Shearsman Books Ltd
58 Velwell Road
Exeter EX4 4LD

www.shearsman.com

ISBN 978-1-84861-022-4
First Edition

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Acknowledgments

Exeter Flying Post for “Near the Village of Qana, in the Hamlet of
Khuraybah”; *Shearsman* for “Fable”, “It’s alright” and “Will You Ever
See New Brunswick?”

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for Semra

*Man speaks in that he responds to language.
This responding is a hearing. It hears because it
listens to the command of stillness.*

Martin Heidegger (1889–1976)

*Ton silence
Parlera pour toi*

Abdellatif Laâbi

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Ilahi

Rising for the Fajr prayer, water's morning coolness says "wake & go & sit before your god. Be mindful of the candle's losing

flame. For now you are neither east nor west, neither night shrouded nor day burning. Wash for a god you cannot ignore".

Light will be on you like a rash. Bow down and say: *affliction and all that I have I own.*

for Deena Linett

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Answers at Dawn

I

Wake
 to wet asphalt
 glistening:
first touch
 first sun

II

Morning-
 hearts:
 your
 micro-pearls
scattered in roadside grass

III

Night
 folds
 like
a concertina:
 distant skirl of cormorants

Windstorm. Oman.

Anger makes
 you small
 useless
& therefore
 silent
shaking
 through
the bricked-
 up box
we call
 a home

while out-
 side sand
en-
 crouches
grain
 on
 grain
around our
 desert lives.

Anger
 has
no use
 for you,
small;
 this
bricked-up
 life

we count
as home
grain
by
grain.

Will You Ever See New Brunswick?

There are rivers we will never fish.

Is this one of them?

You walk alone to the forest pool.

Does it know I'm coming?

Spring grilse have news from the sea.

Is it something we should know about?

There are no myths, but mystery persists.

The earth's visible gasp rises
as mist into crisp air over water.

for Scott Andrew Christensen