

Burdinazko atea zeharkatzen ari da labandieriako gurditxoa.
Begira egoten naiz horrelakoetan.
Barrote artetik kaleko atea ere ikusten dut suerterik bada.
Ongi zenbatuak ditut hemendik kalera dauden atea.

Hogeita lau giltzarrapo besterik ez dira.

KUKUA

Apirilaren hasieran entzun zuen aurrena kukua.
Urduri zebilelako beharbada,
kaosa ordenatzeko joera horrengatik beharbada,
kukuak zein notatan kantatzen zuen jakin nahi izan zuen.

Hurrengo arratsaldean, hantxe egon zen basoan zain,
diapasoi eskuan, kukuak noiz kantatuko.
Diapasoiak ez zioen gezurrik.
Si-sol ziren kukuaren notak.

Aurkikuntzak bazterrak astindu zituen.
Mundu guztiak frogatu nahi zuen benetan
nota horietan kantatzen ote zuen kukuak.
Baina neurketak ez zetozen bat.
Bakoitzak bere egia zuen.
Fa-re zirela zioen batek, Mi-do besteak.
Ez ziren ados jartzen.

Bitartean, kukuak kantari jarraitzen zuen basoan:
ez si-sol, ez fa-re, mi-do ezta ere.
Mila urte lehenago bezala,
kukuak kuku, kuku kantatzen zuen.

I leave my friends in the country,
The scent of basil is far away, like the hands wet with orange juice.
The laundry trolley passes through the iron doors.
I often watch this happen.
If I am lucky I can see the door to the street through the bars.
I have counted and recounted the number of doors.

Only twenty-four puny padlocks.

THE CUCKOO

It was the beginning of April when he first heard the cuckoo.
And maybe because he was stressed,
or because of his tendency to subdue chaos,
he wanted to know the notes the cuckoo sang.

The next evening he was in the forest, ready,
tuning fork in hand, waiting for the cuckoo to sing.
The tuning fork didn't lie.
The cuckoo sang ti-do.

The discovery sent shock waves all around.
Everybody wanted to check if the cuckoo
really sang those notes.
But there were conflicting assessments.
Different people believed different things.
Someone said it was fa-so, someone else la-ti.
They couldn't agree.

Meanwhile the cuckoo kept singing in the forest:
It wasn't ti-do, la-ti or fa-so.
Like a thousand years ago,
just cuckoo, cuckoo.