

My Love

狂 KYŌ lunatic. *kyō(suru)* go insane; be beside oneself with.
kuru(u) run amuck; be madly in love; go haywire, break down; be upset;
warp; fluctuate; miss the mark; (winds) howl. *kuru(waseru) kuru(wakasu)*
derange, dislocate; disturb. *fu(reru)* go mad, be crazy. *kuru(i)* confusion;
warp; going wide of the mark; fluctuations. -*kyō* maniac, enthusiast, fan.

—from *kanji* entry 2672

Next Friday I will go insane
because there's nowhere else to go.
Beside myself with rage,
I'll become two people,

though I'll lose my head, running
amuck like a wrenched-apart hen.
Have I mentioned I'm madly in love?
My performance draws raves.

Watch me go haywire if touched
or break down like an old radio.
The vase of my life-water's upset.
I fluctuate like a wind sock.

Since my bow is warped, I'm wide
of the mark by at least seven targets
while the winds howl like a woman
deranged by the death of the sky.

But I don't want to discomfit anyone,
even if I'm the one disturbed.
Call me a maniac, go ahead, but
I'm really your biggest fan.

The Point

指 SHI finger. *sa(su)* point to; name; insert; fill; drop into (eyes); hold up (an umbrella); wear (a sword); offer (a cup); play; move (in games); flow; be tinged with; proceed to; fix (a day); measure (with a ruler); measure and make (a box); play (chess or checkers). *yubi* finger. *sa(shite)* for, to toward.

—from *kanji* entry 1904

Can you point to the man who was your father?—
a quantity that will name a container
but never fill it, an eyedropper of truth.

This one held up an umbrella for you
one rain-soaked day, the knobby end
between the two of you like a bamboo tail.

That one wore a sword on festival days,
no pasteboard costumery but a length of steel,
hammered till it was hard and cold.

The other one beat you
in *shōgi* and five-in-a-row,
all the while nodding like a doll.

I cannot assess the differences with a ruler.
Rather, I have measured and made a box.
I have fixed a day for the rites 47 days after.
Offering my cup, I recall when your finger was all,
tinged with the feeling of *for*, *to*, and *toward*
and me hanging on to the end.