

FAMILY (for TEEPEE BOB)

--Steve Dalachinsky

he says he was abducted by aliens in the 60's.
i say we were all abducted by aliens.
she says "i never knew trees were alive like animals but now i know they enjoy feeling the air."
the water runs. leaves run along the bank "look a hawk," she says. crow-like chatter.
the car smells like dog.
the shelter smells like winter is coming.
homeless flesh depositing itself everywhere.
by the stream under a tree.
in the cafe. on the village green. along the side of the road.
even in front of the computer at the local library.

the stream is saying something.
she watches the sky thru the holes in the few remaining leaves.
aliens must have abducted us.

he disappears into the air like a decorated buddha
his purple swollen feet surely from another place
the base of the tree retaining his quietly arching shape.

she holds up a leaf as big as her face.
"your mask" i say "for tonight's parade."
"so big. who made this? nobody." she says "i know you're not but i'm happy i'm here.
thank you."

i have enough pebbles already the stream keeps saying
the clouds what can be said about the clouds anymore?

she squats to pee. we are all aliens. must have been abducted. aliens inducted. trees are weird. she says. they must have been abducted. i laugh. the stream says something. it must have been abducted. the clouds. what can i say about the clouds? the seed that spills along the shore. the mating hawks.

"they threw me out of HEAVEN." he says. we are all aliens. must all have been abducted.
"oh you're going as adam?" he asks. "no. as adam's dick." i answer. the leaf as big as her chest, my eye..she must have been abducted. the light at dusk seduces us & we are made to feel abducted. surrounded by a circle of light that illuminates the clinging leaves. the light. the light. my costume for the parade.

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