

## Wilderness

when did it happen?  
yesterday?  
or today?  
or was it an altogether different lifetime?

i am not certain of these things...

only that some wheel came off,  
or shade was pulled,  
or roiling inaudible thunder started,  
the sound of the snap of a mind as it cracks,  
as it shatters,  
as it retreats into some dark and lonely place  
separated from things known, and shared, and loved.

and there he is.  
i can see him in that wilderness,  
fighting and running and screaming from terrors i cannot see.  
from that sound,  
that catastrophic howl of suffering  
where everything that was him runs into the shadows,  
into the suspicious night at every hour.

and now, i too am in a wilderness.  
different from his.  
less.....terrifying, less.....monstrous.  
and i am not here alone.  
there are guides here.  
people who know these woods.  
people who have also heard the terrible sound,  
and they offer me  
kindness, and  
understanding, and  
maps.