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Lear’s Wife

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If he had ever asked me  
I could have told him

If he had listened to me  
it would have been  
another story

I knew them before  
they were born

with Goneril at my breast  
I looked at the world  
and saw blood in darkness  
and tried to wake

with Regan at my breast  
I looked at the world  
and covered my mouth

with Cordelia in my arms  
at my breast  
I wanted to call out to her  
in love and helplessness  
and I wept

as for him  
he had forgotten me  
even before they did

only Cordelia  
did not forget  
anything  
but when asked she said  
nothing