
Volume 14

Issue 2 *Spring-Summer: Writing From the World:
Selections from the International Writing Program
1977-1983*

Article 77

1984

Fable of First Person

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Recommended Citation

Somlyó, György and Donald Davie. "Fable of First Person." *The Iowa Review* 14.2 (1984): 202-203. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.3070>

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György Somlyó · *Hungary*

WOUND AND KNIFE

The relationship between knife and wound is variable. The wound bleeds. The knife gets bloody. The wound aches. The knife gets notched. The wound remembers the knife in pain. The knife does not remember the wound. The wound heals. The knife's wound endures. One day the wound will also forget the knife. The knife has nothing to forget. The knife finds pleasure in the wound as in the opening of the body. The wound may also find pleasure in the knife as in a penetrating body. The wound abhors the knife. The knife may abhor the wound. There are some who abhor the wound. There are some who abhor the knife. Others abhor both. The wound may also like the knife. The knife may also like the wound. It may happen that the wound is as insensitive as the knife. Sooner or later the wound heals. The knife may break into the wound. The knife often says: I am the Wound. The wound may one day say: I am the Knife. The relationship between wound and knife is variable. Only one thing is invariable: that there are wounds and there are knives. The knife is the knife of the wound. The wound is the wound of the knife. One cannot exist without the other.

translated by Maria Korosy and William Jay Smith

FABLE OF FIRST PERSON

Between my nape and my hand
this dialogue

This question and answer going
on without interruption

This demi-interim
replete with stupor

This nebula of blood
circling the heart-sun

This constant waiting upon
the subsequent

Who one day will not show up

Who one day will be the last
incalculable product
 n -times- x
of the indeterminate series

This at no time soluble
equation
which has no other member

This inside
this outside
this all around

This ring closed in upon me
between my nape and my hand.

translated by Donald Davie