

2008

## The Word for "Yeo"

Ra Heeduk

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Heeduk, Ra. "The Word for "Yeo"." *The Iowa Review* 38.2 (2008): 66-66. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6460>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

RA HEEDUK

*The Word for “Yeo”*

What was forgotten became a rock-under-water.  
Submerged in the waves of oblivion,  
it rises from the water. And because people  
can't call it an island, they call it a *yeo*.  
Crying *yeo*, Bird *yeo*, Daechon's mom *yeo*, Chilling *yeo*, Black *yeo* . . .  
Around these names something hovers, like the cry of a wave  
that whirled around for a long time and then passed them by.  
While some hang their memories out to dry in the sun,  
which might have sunk under the wave forever,  
others try to give a name to their faces  
only to disappear in a flash;  
they might have called the rock  
that never returned, even at ebb tide, *yeo*.  
It's not because the tide was ebbing  
that the *yeo* revealed itself,  
but because the birds circled low over the submerged rock  
and fluttered their wings for a few days.  
From their wet wings came the sound of *yeo*.