Search For A Common Language

Crumbley, Paul, Graulich, Melody

Published by Utah State University Press

Crumbley, Paul and Melody Graulich.
Search For A Common Language: Environmental Writing And Education.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/9273.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9273

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=267248
The Old Man at Evening

i

Which world should I speak of?
The one by the Pecos River, volumes of sound,
the wind through cedars, echoes of rabbits,
their dying cries, or the quick memories
of wolves?

I know with whatever sadness
the truth of lamplight in autumn,
the sandpaper brush of lips,
women that believe in some strength
held, secretly, against the darkness.

I know I have lived before.
It is etched in me, modes of responses,
awarenesses that some others have and I
love you, knowing we have touched before,
coupled, talked, our eyes not unremembered
as the centuries concealed our true faces
and we made love with our imaginings.

ii

I am he who calls
the night, yet I
forget the words

in the darkness
we are all afraid
lose touch, lost

I know whatever
I say gets swallowed
by something in the night
my love
the complicated stars
sometimes seem

to spell out your name
I do not know how
to answer them, hold

you close, my lips
trembling as I try
to speak the correct

charm, the final phrase
before their light
I speak this love for you