*The Making of a Prophet*

_for Adrienne Rich_

*Keep it small*  they said  *Keep it small*  or the city will form a mouth  Be careful  not to say mouth  or world  Don’t say body  Drink your coffee  Fuck it

There are gum wrappers on the sidewalk

that reflect all those predator drones

You can almost see them see you  You

flip your hair  You preen  You touch yourself but you can never see them  They can always see you  There is a room

full of men making anything possible  It is the loneliest thing  making up worlds

Watching others live their little lives  Keep it small  the men are telling you  Wave to the sky  No  to a bird you are no longer allowed to name  and may no longer exist

You’ve been selected for a very particular Task  All you have to do is talk and talk and talk and not say anything at all  This should be easy  They say that  too