

THREE POEMS

Nils-Aslak Valkeapää

Can you hear the sound of life
in the roaring of the creek
in the blowing of the wind

That is all I want to say
that is all

this is my life
winds and smoky snow
sunshine and drizzle
the sound of bells and dogs barking
the bluethroat singing
in the tundra as wide as a sea

that is how my life's rain falls
winds blow
ice rumbles
storms howl across the tundras

this is my life
its sorrows tears the heart's crying
its happiness and joy
and delight
yesterday and today
brothers and sisters
young and old
men and women

this is my life
I am a part of nature
I feel I know
The yoik in wind
The bird's singing in summer night

From Nils-Aslak Valkeapää. *Trekways of the Wind*. DAT. Guovdageaidnu 1994

the land
is different
when you have lived there
wandered

sweated
frozen

seen the sun
set rise
disappear return

the land is different
when you know
here are
roots
ancestors

From Nils-Aslak Valkeapää, *The Sun, my Father*. DAT, Guovdageaidnu 1997.

Translators: Harald Gaski, Lars Nordström and Ralph Salisbury