

## The Deer People

Stumbled under the shade of birds. Scratched a little hollow  
in the dirt and hid the rings there.

Moved quiet and alone among the others. As if through snow.  
Wearing the sage wrist-bands.

Considered sunshine and its synonyms. Considered its antonym:  
the ebbing tide. Spot-lit, entered from the wings.

Stepped into a spirit world where the natural show themselves.  
Wearing a guise of the same.

"disconnected" "little dreams" "false continuum" (Alice Notley).  
Often a complete and common shyness.

To candle is to examine an egg's freshness by holding it to the light.  
Hole in the ozone. Hole in the soul's tallow lining.

That grown men can hold their guns to the soft belly of a child.  
That they can shoot someone who is so afraid.

The violence we have allowed to blow through us. Locked  
bedroom door bucking in its casement.

Considered peace and its synonym. The whitetail doe and her fawn.  
Crossed the field of the mind meadow-wise.

To ask a question is a promise that one will listen. How the fir

is within the fire. Wind in the windrow.

Saw not particulars but glow. Fed off the nose. Cleared the air  
of all but the smell of clover.