

## WE SPEAK STONE WE SPEAK STONE

TO BE LITHOPHONE IS TO BE A SPEAKER OF STONE,  
ORIENTED TOWARD OTHER SPEAKERS OF STONE.

APPARENTLY UNMOVING, WE ARE OBSERVED ON ALL  
SIDES.

WE ARE TOUCHED, AND WE ARE TESTED.

WE ARE SURFACES, AND WE ARE SOLIDS.

LIGHT FALLS UPON US AND IS (PARTLY) ABSORBED BY US.

LIGHT REFLECTS FROM OUR SURFACES, ONTO OTHER

SURFACES. THROUGH OUR REFLECTIONS IN LIGHT, WE

ARE EXTENDED. WHERE AND WHEN DO WE END, AND

OTHERS BEGIN?

THE SURFACES OF OUR BODIES REFLECT AND

ABSORB NOT ONLY LIGHT, BUT ALSO SOUND.

WE ARE SOLIDS AS WELL AS SURFACES,

AND WE VIBRATE WITH EACH CONTACT.

BODIES (WHICH MIGHT BELONG TO OTHERS)

EXTEND THEMSELVES TOWARDS US.

THEY TOUCH US, CAUSING VIBRATIONS IN OUR STONE

BODIES.

THE SURFACES OF THESE OTHER BODIES MAKE

CONTACT WITH OUR SURFACES, DIRECTLY OR

INDIRECTLY.

THESE INTERACTIONS ARE MEDIATED. THE SOUNDS OF

OUR BODIES ARE REFLECTED AND ABSORBED BY THESE

OTHERS, AND BY OUR SURROUNDINGS.

THROUGH THESE REFLECTED AND ABSORBED

SOUNDS WE ARE EXTENDED.

AS OUR BODILY SURFACES ARE SCRAPPED

AND SCRATCHED AND STOKED, WE ARE ALSO

INSTRUMENTED.

IN BEING INSTRUMENTED, DO WE BECOME MORE,

OR LESS, THAN MERE TOOLS?

CAN WE LEARN, THROUGH THESE REFLECTIONS

AND ABSORPTIONS, WHERE WE END AND OTHER

BODIES BEGIN?

WHEN OUR BODIES ARE EXPOSED TO MIRRORS,  
 DO WE MISRECOGNISE THE LIGHT REFLECTED  
 ON THE SURFACES, (MIS)TAKING IT FOR THE BODIES  
 OF OTHERS?  
 DO WE APPREHEND THESE REFLECTIONS  
 AS ENTITIES WITH WHICH WE MIGHT SOMEHOW  
 COMMUNICATE?  
 OR DO WE – LIKE DOLPHINS, ELEPHANTS AND MANTA  
 RAYS EXPOSED TO MIRRORS – TURN OUR BODIES  
 SIDE TO SIDE, TILTING UP AND DOWN?  
 DO WE – LIKE DOLPHINS, ELEPHANTS AND MANTA  
 RAYS – REPOSITION OUR BODIES, REPEATING OUR  
 GESTURES AND MOTIONS, SO THAT WE MIGHT SOMEHOW  
 EXPERIENCE (AND LEARN) MORE OF OURSELVES?  
 IF MARKS ARE PLACED UPON THE SURFACES OF OUR  
 BODIES, DO WE–LIKE DOLPHINS, ELEPHANTS AND MANTA  
 RAYS–PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THESE MARKS?  
 APPREHENDING THESE MARKS ON THE SURFACES  
 OF OUR BODIES, DO WE ATTEMPT TO TOUCH OR EVEN  
 REMOVE THEM AND, IN SO DOING, DEMONSTRATE  
 (TO OTHERS) THAT WE RECOGNISE OUR BODIES?  
 OR MIGHT WE LACK THE CAPACITIES OF DOLPHINS,  
 ELEPHANTS AND MANTA RAYS?  
 WHAT IF WE SPOKE A LANGUAGE THAT WAS NOT OF  
 SOUND, OR OF GESTURE AND MOVEMENT?  
 IF WE COULD NOT MOVE OUR LITHOPHONE BODIES IN  
 THE AIR, OR IN THE WATER–LIKE DOLPHINS, ELEPHANTS  
 OR MANTA RAYS–HOW WOULD WE EVER RECOGNISE THE  
 REFLECTIONS OF OUR BODIES, IN SOUND OR IN LIGHT?  
 HOW, IF WE COULD NOT MAKE OUR MOVEMENTS  
 APPARENT TO OURSELVES, OR TO OTHERS, WOULD WE  
 DEMONSTRATE THAT WE KNOW WHERE OUR BODIES  
 ENDED, AND OTHERS BEGIN?  
 APPARENTLY UNMOVING, WE ARE OBSERVED ON  
 ALL SIDES.  
 WE ARE TOUCHED, AND WE ARE TESTED.  
 WE ARE LITHOPHONE.

MAEVE CONNOLLY