

**Bill Jones**

**HERMIT SMOKO DOGLEG  
STRAINS**

(for Terence Share)

I was typing poems at front room table  
when you clumped up the stairs  
it's been 3 years  
clunk clunkity clunk  
I thought someone was with you  
but it was only an apple  
falling from your pack  
back down the stairs

"i  
bis  
i  
ris  
i  
sis  
i  
sis  
i  
sis"

you chant for "perspective"  
as we stroll through  
the forest naked

I dream we were explorers  
crossing turbulent turquoise stream  
topaz currents tug at our ankles  
inchlong songbirds enchant us  
we were giants

## GIANTS

seduced by a cluster  
of grass lilies:  
we're glad  
radium glad  
you've come  
squat & stare  
so many patterns & pulsations  
of petal-rays you  
never thought possible  
they said to us in my dream  
to which you answer  
"starflesh"

we walk in on redbelly blacksnake  
coiled behind bathtub at sunset  
forearm thick 7 footer I decapitate  
with dull blade of a long handled shovel  
flung still quivering in junk jutt ditch  
in back of the house overgrown  
with native passionfruit vine  
it was after the treefrogs that  
sleep behind the bathroom  
pictures & towels

talking of Vermeer in the kitchen  
Flanders yellow & Antwerp blue  
on color chart on the wall  
fused our imaginations  
old European masterpiece  
city hues

quartet of speckled beetles  
with lyres for mandibles  
munching a leaf into lace  
as you leave