

Time for a walk in Wellington

Time for a walk / step by step / from tree to tree / second by second /
one then another / the tree above / calling to the one / below /
already outgrown / once up the hill / down into the unknown
/ another walk / in small steps / grey path lined / with short logs /
ferns in turn / tangle / between my fingers / time to shortcut /
through the trees / in one move / from footprint to footprint / my
feet step in them / the soles / of my shoes crush / a dead branch /
probably waking / some invisible insect / underneath / I christen it /
with an invented name / move on after greeting / the labouring
creature / until this other grove / let's avoid on the way / the trap the
gap in the trees / from where I shall see / the high walls / afflicted
with windows / at the edge of the city.

Today it rained
the little garden under water
yesterday the gardener was here
two shrubs make my forest

Time to be on the way / home again / a crossroad a street / that I
know / I stay there / sometimes / alas / I lose the address too often /
I have to go / step by step / new steps / cut into the brown soil / no
stones no logs / this one is hard-packed earth / after twenty steps /
there's calm and beauty / here / in return / for nothing more / a few
steps / my thanks to Wellingtonians / they were able / not to leave
their mark / leaving to the mountain / the entire space / my thanks
to the gardeners / of Wellington / for the pathway they traced /
today is the day / to be mind and body / in the mountains.

We intended to go to the mountains
the trees the tracks awaited us
beneath that dark sky suddenly rain
we pulled the curtains to listen close

Time passes / I follow step by step / from bush to bush / the hour
unchanging / the sun stilled / the wind stirs the leaves / above my
head / from tree to tree / I follow my whim / my summoned friends
/ will come / down below long after / I can see a clearing / large
branches / caressing space / that's where they'll be / time for me / to
be there too / another pathway explored at speed / speed without

measure I am as one with it / muscles and tendons completely
involved / nothing more useful than walking / to be at this moment
where I am / walking step by step / towards the Universe / a simple
thing but few understand / told I'm a dreamer living an illusion / yet
again they will not understand.

Down this hillside
after the great storm
the tree cutters took everything
broken branches torn bushes
The legs are heavy
approaching the summit
from one side or another or straight up
why go there again this morning

In a few hours / nothing will remain / of these footsteps / the eyes
will have gazed / on after the other / at the earth or grassy paths /
they rise up from the concrete / to tackle the hill / they dare / they
slip between the giant pines / come from America / they stand
beside their towering height / I am in tow / I follow step by step / so
close to my new friends / today is the day / to hear the unknown
birds / high above / too many invitations / I can't take on the
conquest of the sky / today is the time to be here / to enjoy walking
step by step / in the silence of Wellington's heart / and in other hours
/ of my passing nothing will remain / for me alone there will still be /
elation.

Pictures of the simple life
rain working in the mountains
I cannot have my fill of watching
my body will be forever lost in them.

Translated by Jean Anderson