

CAST ORO CENE¹

a film pome²

¹ 'Castorocene'
borrowed from Ben Goldfarb, *Eager* (2018) connoting 'era of the beaver'. 'Castor fiber' (Europe) or 'Castor Canadensis' taxonomical names for beavers.

² 'pome' borrowed from James Joyce, *Pomes Penyeach* (1927)

the world went out like a candle
the world went out like a cockerel³

the sky was deleted
with the upward swipe
of an app no longer required

the war of all-against-all⁴
left everyone a loser

there was nothing left to say
and no-one left to say it

but from the bottom of it all
in some ancient forgotten swamp
something hairy seemed to seemed to squelch

it swam up to reality's rim
& got to re-building it all
from zilch

I - THE WET WOOD

what is this thing?
who makes this scene?
this fecund holy mess?

which architect
could cut the neck
of tree one tree and make ten grow?

& did she know
from start to done
that to fill this cup
would serve so many more than one?

³ 'the world went out like a candle / the world went out like a cockerel' borrowed from Aleksander Vvedensky *God May Be Around* (1931)

⁴ borrowed from Natan Dubovitsky (aka Vladislav Surkov), *Without Sky* 2014
'In the primitive wars of the 19th and 20th centuries it was common for just two sides to fight. Two countries. Two groups of allies. Now four coalitions collided. Not two against two, or three against one. No. All against all.'
in turn borrowed from Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651)
'*Bellum omnium contra omnes*'

II - THE DARK POOL

they say⁵ that back in the early days
before everything went to shit
a human woman
married a human man
(he was a famous hunter I think)
they moved to his foreign country
& set up by a river pool

he goes off hunting
for days and days
then days it turns to weeks

she at home cooking.
in leather apron,
bored.

so she takes to dips in the pool
she just loves that cool caress

but the pool is pokey
so she sticks sticks where it trickles
& the water gathers & swells.
delighted with her work,
she builds another
& another & another
a cascade of aqua park delight.

now she's less & less on land
& more & more *in there*

hubby comes home
from long excursion

chatting 'bout needing dinner
but wife's fucked off
so hub distraught
sits down by pool to weep

by his feet
a moist thing quivers
swims to the river's meniscus
whispers 'sorry, but'
slaps its leathery tail
& is gone

(or so i heard)

⁵ Myth borrowed by Rachael Poliquin in *Beaver (Animal)* (2015)
from Haida culture, who in turn may have borrowed it from Tsimshian culture (ancient)

III - THE INFERNAL NOW

well back to the infernal now,
i mean eternal then

things went so far one way
they had to go another

& so verdant is this rodent's dream
there's even room
for the odd human being⁶

⁶ borrowed from me