

off and on

I

it's a rain-slick asphalt black like *mandeville*-night
tail lights luminous liquid-red

shifting gears i play the lanes fly-fisher
reeling out the flow

a radio talk show host discusses reggae-coups
the post-marley revolution

the lights are out between eglinton and lawrence
avenue road a masque of darkness

II

i first heard the rhythms of bob marley on the streets
of spain “no woman nuh cry” pulsing through mcdonalds

there's no forgetting fire-light and trench-town
mingling in madrid

another day held together tight
against the bone paper-

thin susceptible
to fluctuation and to flames

III.

north of lawrence power is restored
the rain subsides

the payne's-grey night sky freshly laundered
above trees and undulating roads

edging the city a platinum
moon stippled silver

abundant poised
no ambiguity there no tears
(Soutar-Hynes 2001: 72–73)ⁱ

ⁱ M.L. Soutar-Hynes. 2001. *The Fires of Naming*, pp. 72-3. Toronto, ON: Seraphim Editions.