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"Listening" A Poem Inspired by Middlemarch

M.A. Valk

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LISTENING

Listening to silence
on its other side
hearing the grass grow
the beat of a bird's heart
the fall of a star

Shall I die of the roar
waiting for silence
to break - like glass?

M. A. Valk

Suggested by George Eliot, *Middlemarch*, Penguin ed. (I, xx, 171)

1987 Review: No. 18 Page 87. The undeciphered word appears to be Apteryx. Robert Owen reconstructed flightless birds, of which this is one.