

## THREE POEMS

### Nils-Aslak Valkeapää

Can you hear the sound of life  
in the roaring of the creek  
in the blowing of the wind

That is all I want to say  
that is all

this is my life  
winds and smoky snow  
sunshine and drizzle  
the sound of bells and dogs barking  
the bluethroat singing  
in the tundra as wide as a sea

that is how my life's rain falls  
winds blow  
ice rumbles  
storms howl across the tundras

this is my life  
its sorrows tears the heart's crying  
its happiness and joy  
and delight  
yesterday and today  
brothers and sisters  
young and old  
men and women

this is my life  
I am a part of nature  
I feel I know  
The yoik in wind  
The bird's singing in summer night

From Nils-Aslak Valkeapää. *Trekways of the Wind*. DAT. Guovdageaidnu 1994

the land  
is different  
when you have lived there  
wandered

sweated  
frozen

seen the sun  
set rise  
disappear return

the land is different  
when you know  
here are  
roots  
ancestors

From Nils-Aslak Valkeapää, *The Sun, my Father*. DAT, Guovdageaidnu 1997.

Translators: Harald Gaski, Lars Nordström and Ralph Salisbury