

One Good Reason

I asked a soap salesman
 about soap
 in relation to death I mean
 did he know about the soap shortages
 in World War Two ?
 The French managed to make a bit
 at home from candle-ends and lye.
 The Germans used
 concentration camp cadavers
 unless they were too thin of course
 the skin
 for lampshades remember?
 And I asked him isn't it a waste
 all these Vietnamese
 we could make good soap out of
 (add the factoryfresh smell)
 those sleek brown babies fat too
 especially when nursing -- sometimes they die
 because too burned or their mothers are --

"But we haven't a soap shortage,"
 the salesman said as he picked up his kit
 "I've more here now than I can sell."

-- Fanny Ventadour

Winter Park, Florida

The Naming of Trees

Addressing the branches
 having given up their leaves

Dawn is less early
 the birds quieter

I recite to your blank
 cold trunk

How tree like woman
 how tree like