

Saying Things

Three things quickly—**hobgoblin, sassafras, kiosk**—

and then on to **Chenrezig**. What I want to say tonight is

words, the naming of things into their thing,

sachet, dragonfly, Buster, devils food cake with mocha icing,

say something, say anything, you'll see what I mean.

Say **transcendence**, you feel the word fly out from under and away.

Say **dawn**, say **ripe peaches, Buddha, obfuscate, heartbeat,**

do you see what I'm saying, say **aloha**, say **Dharmasala,**

say a whole city, say **Bodh Gaya**. You can feel the word

rising like a taste on the palate, say

Poaque Pale, dukkha, symphony, giggle, spirit,

try **oogie moogli, zebra, truffle, Lumbini, grace.**

Any word—say it—**cacophony, Bodhisattva, mystery,**

any word goes like a gull up and on its way,

even lead lifts like a swallow from the nest

of your tongue. Say **iridescent, bonbon, penultimate,**

verve—oh I invite you to try it. Say **funicular,**

luminous, numinous, equanimity, namaste,

you are all of you a generous and patient audience,

synergy, grateful, zealous, mahamudra,

say stitched, serendipitous, shamata, you feel your own voice

taking off like a swift, when you say a word, you feel like

a gong that's been struck, to speak is to step out of your skin,

stunned. And you're a pulsar, finally you understand light

is both particle and wave, you can see it, as in

kerfuffle—when do you get the chance to say kerfuffle—

and now erudite, splash and wow wing their way

to the heaven of their thing. Say vibrant, say hushed,

say spacious, superfluous, truffle,

say nap, starlight, paramita, troglodyte, say rosebud.

This is a birthday party for the mouth—it's better than ice cream,

say flabbergasted, chocolate, dream, dakini

and the word will take you, if you let it,

the word will take you along across the air of your head

so that you're there as it settles into the thing it was made for,

adding to it a shimmer and the bird song of its sound,

sound that comes from you, the hand letting go

its dove, yours the mouth speaking the thing into existence,

this is what I'm talking about, this is called saying things. –Marilyn Krysl

