

In the Beginning before the Beginning

Eros, loosener of limbs
- Hesiod

In the beginning before the beginning
Khaos, Tartaros, Gaia and Eros:
the Abyss, the Deep, the Earth and Desire

Earth of herself brought forth mountains,
seas, nymphs and *Ouranos*, the Sky,
her male double who face to face

covered her so completely
so occupied her birth canal
their brood of monsters was locked inside

until she had her favorite son
unman his father with a single stroke
of adamant sickle, releasing his siblings,

her polyamorous progeny
to copulate and populate
the green world in their own image —

gods and men and unspeakable things
induced into craving by Aphrodite
goddess of sexual love (who was born

of Sky's semen in the spume of a wave
where it fell), moved to cohabit
by Eros most beautiful of gods

who does not only join two into one
but makes manifest the duality
the multiplicity of union.

* * *

And in the same scroll is written
. . . in the beginning before the beginning,
Chaos and before Chaos, Time —

a many-headed ambiguous snake —
and Necessity, and before Time
and Necessity, clay and water.