

**CAROL ANN DAVIS**  
**The Oblique Approach**

Away he moves from us    away though his body    stays    an outline of sound    thus has it    been  
written    *thus*    fox in ruins    fox in open    *must it be sung*    the boy with the scent    the fox has  
given him    also a messenger    from the divine    his ear    shell-like and sheltered    a hunted thing  
listening    for red of earth    and sound to blend    that's the oblique part    that a boy's call    is also  
by closing his eyes    and hand over ear    in case he misses it    a fox in mountains    his coat blending  
this world towards    something distant    though his body stays    so each of us    hunts    and is  
hunted    how he seeks    something ancient    in his ear and    in hills    which he imagines  
approaching    since people tire    of    the human voice    try    its *call to prayer*    the body    an ugliness  
the body    a burning-building quality    try the oblique    try the oblique    and approach it like scent  
don't say it outright    since slaughter    listens    and answers in song    the boy moving    away into  
the deep    the better    to feel tongue    in back of mouth