

**PHILIP METRES**  
**from Shrapnel Maps**

[       ]

*Palestinae Delineatio Ad Geographiae Canones Revocata*

As there is no adequate Arabic version of “as the crow flies”

When you come into the land of Canaan

We are the distance

*The Delineation of the Borders [1603]*

That is the land

*The Holy Land once the Promised Land or Palestine*

That shall fall unto you

The distance

*Of the journey in the wilderness and the conquest and partition*

And as we were worthy of sketching it so will we be worthy, with our own eyes

The distance

Of seeing it built up and settled

*As today it is called*

The distance between birds and Jerusalem

PHILIP METRES

[       ]

*Is most true and the most considerable of all for the entire Land of  
promise, from Dan even to Beersheba, a description of the*

As with a map, as with narrative

Any chosen detail necessarily blots out

Proximate details

Like the new studies of memory—

Items in a list spoken aloud

Are made more memorable

But make the unspoken ones

Disappear

Say: that painted copse of trees

A quaint flourish

Could cover over a village

## PHILIP METRES

this is the map without names & names  
without maps / maps of unprecedented  
embroideries of flora / maps of sleeping  
stone / maps without edges without scale  
if I don't let my right hand wither if I don't let  
my tongue cleave to the palate of I do not  
remember / unexploded coffee unamputated  
bread / room at the inside / room at the outset  
if an image of haven if image of heaven if image  
of leaven if cleaving leviathan then leave close  
the question who begat whom / before  
we settle on a name / contract the pregnant question