

## *Mugwort: a question*

What is it about you that makes you good  
for dreaming, who decided? How uncovered.

Who does the naming and who imbibes, who  
dreams and who records—is it demon worship

to christen you Oracle of my forgetting, Saint  
of that which I do not understand?

As a child I was taught that god comes  
to prophets in their dreams.

*Artemisia*: so named for the moon; heavy night realms  
are yours also.

*vulgaris*: ugly, rotten,  
common, low.

Is it common to dream I went back there  
fifteen years later and again they put me up on that altar?

Still, I opened to sing,

a common child ordained with the gift  
of discernment of the spirit:

No amulet or talisman      to tell me any different.

In whose tradition am I working?  
I call the corners:

*Angels, angels.*

*Wort* means *root* (and here I thought it mean to heal: lungwort,  
liverwort, woundwort, bladderwort)

*Drink a tea of bitter mugwort and valerian  
for deep sleep and visionary dreams*

Mug: cup, mouth

*Seal your pillowslip with mugwort to ward  
omens and ills from your bed*

What is at the root of all my dreaming?

*Angels east and angels west, sang the atheist.*

Whose mouth did you first dream into?