

EVE

Leaves and fruit were falling
And I only wanted to know
Why this, of all the trees,
Kept alternating greens
And browns and why it dropped
Those ugly pods and stems—
I only wanted to know
Of the roots, the crazy clutch
That broke the ground, the branches
Elbowing into the sun,
The netted leaves, the shoots,
Buds, blossoms, scars — I had
To know this motion I
Could almost see, I felt
Its harboring of life
That somehow is not life,
Of life alive against
Itself! I felt I must
Know why the struggle, why
That little piece of bark
Was flaking off — I touched!
And a branch dropped at my feet

And spoke yes spoke to me
Moving and speaking — oh Gods!
And then it gently twined
My leg and ran its head
Up up my thigh and asked
If I were pleased or if
I understood I said
I did not but I wished
To understand the tree
It said to know you must
Partake I did I knew
The tree I was the tree
The branch went in the tree
Again I was the branch
The branch was I I could
Not tell which was the branch!
But I could see! I saw
A country in the mist
Beyond the stream, this garden
Has an end, come eat!
Come see where the river runs
Into a sea of sand!