THINGS THAT STAY

In his head
there is snow.
Snow, crippled birds and
torn plum leaves. Shadows of
what could be broken,
mirrors, certain shells.

These are the things that stay
though the eyes that he lived in
are dissolving.

Bones of a face. The
lip shape
falling. These disasters keep eating him.

But he sends word travelling
against this dark
water. Small boats from so far,
perfect and tough.
As if to ease some terrible pieces of grief,
as if the loss could grow roses.

-- Lyn Lifshin

Albany, New York

SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF EVIL; HELD FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES
ECSTATIC JOURNEYS

Priests, Shamans, Priestesses, males, females, and
within each a variety of irrational forces.

PRIESTESS: A young birch tree is stripped of its lower
branches, the branches are laid down to make a
circle, a light-colored horse pleasing to the
divinity is chosen by a Priest who entrusts it
to one of the people, he is called HEAD HOLDER!
(A priest emerges from the people, he shakes a
birch branch over the animal's back to force its
soul out, and fly to the god. He repeats the
same gesture over the Head Holder for his soul
to accompany the horse's soul. Rhythm and breath
variations:)

FEMALE: It is not a sign of scientific distinction.