

Rhodology (after G.)

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Forever a sign
To denote the to be-found, the to-be-fetched
A narrow circle of words
Surrounds them
Slowly tightening the robes
Tightly
The Stars fly on a leash

In silence they stand almost enclosed
By alloying light and dust
The stream of time
Is what they say
Don't you quietly hear them bleeding?
(alle brauchen etwas, das ihr Blut auffängt)¹
Stars fly on a leash
We strangle and it's what will be our death

Forever a blazing rune
To denote the disassembled, the rocked
Forms and colours
Run together tying the ropes
That we hold on to
That hold on to us

¹ Editors' note: intentionally left in German.

Goethe's song *Das Heidenröslein* describes an innocent scene at first: a "boy" sees a rose standing in a meadow – it "was so young and beautiful in the morning." But when he goes to pluck it, it threatens him with its thorns – "I'll prick you!" Finally, the boy breaks off the flower and: "he just has to suffer" [from the sting of the rose]. This scene, unfolding over three stanzas, leaves a certain tension. A superficially unambiguous scene suddenly takes on a threatening undertone. A complexly spun power structure interposes itself between Kabe and Rose, in which the boy can ultimately retain the upper hand, while the stabbing of the rose before its death (by plucking) remains in the reader's memory as the ultimate act of subversion. Goethe leaves open whether the plucking of the rose is to be chalked up as a triumph. The configuration of the figures in *Heidenröslein* seems like a prototypical representation of powerful relationships: the beautiful in itself, the defenceless (the rose), cannot (completely) resist the problematic attention of the boy. The boy's motif suggests an imperious enchantment that makes him want to possess the rose (against her will). Contrary to the obvious reference to gender roles and gender, the rose can be understood in terms of a structural moment of human appropriation of the world. In this sense, the boy represents a patriarchal approach to the world that is designed for power and possession and becomes violent at the sight of the rose at rest within itself. In the poem above, this theme is varied with regard to the current Global Climate Crisis. Man becomes violent towards the world, although the world will definitely show itself more defensible than the heath rose.