

# Oh

—  
Cole Swensen

*Apogee Press  
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This matter of life or death on the tongue  
la langue

in every language it is

nom féminin

what am or did or done or ever have  
you gone

the sea in its complexity/heredity/complicity  
rising

all her  
anonymous

lung  
resound  
and resonant

tone:

the world would fit in your palm

then

slip into your palm

something you wore at your throat on a chain

belonged

written down

was from then on as written

as in sealed and carried  
a letter to her sister

(take this letter to your sister)

(but this time it was real)

thus witness  
this edgeless

she slits open