

lawmaker would have me name my tabithas before I've hatched them: this a sarah and that a saul.

lawmaker sees me, sees all three hundred prills in me, glistening like the pearl that portends the bleeding. me the unhewn quarry. me the vaulted backs of lycosidae. nomen be.

lawmaker finds me marvelous. mainspring of god's machine. violent reduplicator! maybe a tad too twisty for anyone's wealth, but so be it. if one must suffer the rib.

the viscera are negotiable, says lawmaker. he has read in some journal that there is science enough to slit and resow. like grafting an errant tree. that there are cotton swabs enough to retrobleed. that there is punishment. that there is always punishment enough.

lawmaker is no expert, by any means. this he admits, pen cocked and waving to the crowd. lawmaker loves me. that is why he gifts me law. a quiver full of it.