

Colouring the light

— and —

lightening the colours

he first blued the earth
yellowed the oceans
scarletted the rivers

greened the moon
oranged the rocks

then reddened the trees
blackened the snows and
whitened the cinders

Il y eut donc d'abord

le ciel et la terre
les roches
et puis

quelques diamanteries
pour émerauder
l'aurore

Then he threw
a many-hued
rain

through the skies

for forty days
and forty nights

il y eut
alors
rouge et vert-de-gris
jaune et bleu avec
quelques teintes de mauve
un léger déluge

then kept waiting for a few years

and when it was all dry
with a new brush
he painted
a new rainbow
striped as candy

and there
was
a world.