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## Ossified Scaffold // Triptych of Phase Change

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BIBI LEWIS

# Ossified Scaffold

I shrink in potable yards,  
swallowed by hollow trunks  
—deafened by lipless whistle: missing  
the (un)familiarity of  
home. The city: sterile, carries  
neat rows of knives. Even  
vermin thin from neglect—show  
no glimpse of motion  
in escape. The sun's heat falls  
short of lower floors & we forget  
existence in physical  
form. I understand the geography  
of this place—semi-streamlined  
reticulation of hyperpolished  
chrome skeletons hide  
eagles who careen  
their necks searching for  
nonmetallic shine: files of life: devils in live  
wire eyes.  
& away from the aluminum refract  
-ed shine, I recall sidewalk chasms  
that dried up—left no energy  
for us to absorb.

# Triptych of Phase Change

i.

Translation: a well-intentioned ferryman  
who sends you in backloops  
to nowhere.

Across the pond, *u*'s materialize—  
familiarity as compensation for lack of colour  
in British rain.

ii.

While mathematics will disagree, binary is  
improbable/imaginary/unnatural.

Even Noah's animals disembarked in threes.

iii.

Moisture lingers, is constant-  
ly divided between three  
forms : phases of lucidity

measured in minds or  
interchangeable clinicalspeak  
—shift in no

time. Luck is a moment  
to notice energy  
exchanged/lost.

How do we name the between  
of here and not?:

Step into a stream.

What are we when we exit.