

## a stroke

simple activities for the  
 simple ones  
 in the beginning is your end  
 you shuffle in and out of  
 your madness  
 insisting on my participation

invalid invalidated  
 simple simon  
 it wouldn't take much to  
 convince me  
 to be a victim  
 of your ill will

it would not be for the sake  
 of your guardians  
 to name your illnesses  
 as my dreams  
 my dreams have become  
 your trophies

do you come from a faraway  
 island where there is a life  
 school that teaches dreamers  
 how to steal  
 memories, movements, speech

this place that we inhabit  
 for validation is a  
 stolen shadow of your dreams  
 my dreams have become  
 your thefts

where do you come from  
 does your body know itself  
 does your mind retrace  
 it's beginning  
 does it know what it has to  
 think-does it

is there a life school  
 where you may learn  
 what to do next  
 is there a text that tells  
 your body  
 when it may move, void

where is the text  
 that guides it  
 point for point  
 with lines un-ruled  
 what is the point  
 to these lines anyway

*Shirley Bear*