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METRICAL CHARM 7 FOR A SHALLOW WOUND

If someone has a shallow wound, wrap it in boiled matico leaves and speak these words into it. This charm works on heart or wing:

Sit down, Shallow Wound!
Whether of heart or wing thou comest
I see you laying your head on your hands.
Nor are you shallow
though you wear the right vestments.
Eat this fire and tell me
from whence it comes.
If it travels to the fingers of your right hand
start learning to use your left.
If it travels to your left hand
someone holds it.
If it rushes up your left ear
your companions are more numerous
than you realized.
If it rushes to your right ear
you aren't paying sufficient attention.
From which direction will you be seen?
Go there. When the flame coils in your gut
you are ready. This is the critical time
you get to live in. All night long fire gushes
from oil to oil as it clings
to the sea's pixelated face. As for light
pollution, it is a charm
in and of itself. Nor does the still profile
of earth-churning machines console
for their jagged hands still glint

when spokes rotate, when spokes rotate
so do the bodies chained there. Not even
what we agree on like water can stir
empathy. Shallow Wound, all of your feelings
are true and the earth holds you
even as you fall through it.
And here you are visited by the right idea:
your hair collapsed upon your face
like a desert weed, your features
devolved to a gnarled mountainside, you
are the grotesque edges
of their dreams, a finger in a fold
of sheep, you have stopped believing, be
leaving the many stories. All along have you
been able to frighten your enemies,
like a folded-down wasp in their seat.
Learn from the snakes, to whose
company you've been banished.
Like them, make a peaceful song.
Like them, love and kill with a velvet sound.
Legless, they stand. These powers
were already yours but they took to your eyes
lit sticks when you emerged.
Eat these bitter leaves until you shake and writhe.
Eat these bitter leaves until you kneel and vomit
the shame that was fed to you.
Your hands are there together too
and they help each other regardless.