

## Lost Names

Before, it was the Japanese.  
Now blame yourself  
and maybe your parents  
who brought you here  
and transfigured your name  
into Peter, Sue, Jason—  
Now Korean teacher calls you  
and the name he uses to  
name you  
slips unfamiliar past your ears,  
fails to catch and move your  
self into recognition

You.

Startled, you remember your name  
in the language you were born into  
and respond haltingly, ill-fitting  
the language you were born into,  
wishing speech in this language  
you must learn  
would flow as smoothly as  
the language you have grown into  
the language which calls you  
calls you  
its own.

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