

## FORMS OF PROTEST

Hannah Silva is a writer and theatre-maker whose work often starts from a playful interrogation of language, voice and form. As a poet she has performed at the Tokyo Design Centre, Krikri International Festival of Polyphony in Belgium, Poetry Hearings in Berlin and throughout the UK.

Her work for theatre includes the solo show *Opposition*, a play for a large cast of teenage girls, *Orchid*, and *The Disappearance of Sadie Jones*. She has written for radio and regularly appears on BBC Radio 3. Her latest play, *Gagged*, was a runner-up in the Leslie Scalapino Award for Innovative Women Playwrights. She is an associate lecturer in poetry and playwriting at Birkbeck College, University of London.

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# Forms of Protest



*for Nana, with love*



## In the beginning

*in the beginning in the beginning in the beginning in the beginning*

and the earth

was without  
was without

and the earth

and the  
and

and the earth	was without God
and the earth	was without Form
and the earth	was without Light
and the earth	was without Face

*and the void the darkness the face the face*

The face of the waters  
in the midst of the waters  
and let it divide  
the waters  
from the waters

Under the firmament

Above the firmament  
and it was so

and God called the light 'day'  
and God called the form 'deep'  
and God called the void 'face'  
and there was light/light the first day

and God saw Good and God said:

'Divide the waters from the waters  
and the morning and the evening and the day'  
*and the day and the day*

'Divide the waters

from the waters

and let the waters gather

in one place'

It was so —

and god was without face  
and god was without form  
and god was without light  
and god was the face the face  
the darkness the face the face

Dry /Land /Good /Fruit /Kind /Seed /Grass /Herb /So/Earth  
... *gathering gathering*

and the morning  
and the evening  
and the day

and the earth  
and the god  
and the earth  
god was without face

and God the Face of the divide  
*so kind so void*

and it was  
there was  
was it?

and it was so  
so *dry*  
so

Let the seasons be seasons let the signs be seasons/  
Let the seasons be signs for days and years and it was so

and divide the light  
god/  
seeds/

fruit/  
so earth  
let the waters gather  
in one place *gathering, gathering*

And god made light to rule the day  
and lesser light to rule the night  
and stars also

And rule over the day  
And rule over the night  
And divide the light  
from the dark  
*and God it was good*  
and the evening and the morning and the day

And God said:  
'waters moving creatures life and fowl fly and earth open'

(and the creature winged good and move)

'Be fruitful fly and multiply and fill the waters and the sky'

and the earth  
and the evening  
and the morning  
and the fifth day