

**I AM TAUGHT**

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They laugh, cheer, exalt  
with me

And I do stand  
Shoulder to shoulder.

It seems so universal  
But --  
The plough doesn't pair for long  
Modest words change to rudeness  
To hot exchanges  
From that end and  
I stand lame  
I listen dumb-struck.

My lips get stuck  
Fingers hold the pen, take the charge  
runs on the modest, humble paper  
so ruthlessly.

The nib scratches from head to nail  
the paper keeps silence  
It is played on  
But I am overpowered  
as it shows tolerance-- Oceanic.

I feel sorry then  
and ask myself  
to be patient.

The paper teaches me--  
A lesson with no words.