

Jim Mele

THOREAU BELIEVED

Thoreau believed that
only silence was possible
& that words threatened
whatever "relation" we achieve
despite the natural world.
I know the mockingbird
that returns to my chimney
every April; he sings
in many voices, by June
he only keeps me awake.
If he were silent
what would I know
& if I refuse anything
would Whitman's grass
still speak for the dead,
my face bloom with tongues?