

THE PARTICULAR SILENCE

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

FICTION

Its Colours They Are Fine
The Magic Flute
Stone Garden
Way to Go
The Pure Land
Night Boat
Mister Timeless Blyth

POETRY

Ah!
Glasgow Zen
Seasons of the Heart
Glasgow Zen (expanded edition)
Still (with Alison Watt)
Clear Light
Morning Glory (with Elizabeth Blackadder)
Thirteen Ways of Looking at Tulips (with Elizabeth Blackadder)
Edinburgh Come All Ye
A Wee Bit Zen

PLAYSCRIPTS

Sailmaker
Space Invaders
Changed Days
2000 & 3 Estaites
No Nothing
On the Line

THE PARTICULAR SILENCE

haiku and tanka

Alan Spence

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INTERIOR IMAGES: School of Katsushika Hokusai, *Snails and Tawashi Scrubber*; Kanjuro Shibata, *Enso Calligraphy*; Hakuin Ekaku, *Mount Fuji and Eggplants* (detail); Shibata Zeshin, *Three Crows in Flight*; Hakuin Ekaku, *Mu*.

to Janani

THE PARTICULAR SILENCE

we made it through
another year – just
listen to the bells

lighting incense
in every room –
the new year

new year's day
same old rain
same old rain

Out there in the dark
I can't see where
the sea ends the sky
begins, only the lights
of a ship, moving.

glass angel
catching and holding
the winter light

open the gate,
borrow the landscape –
it's all yours!

No longer winter,
not yet spring –
this no-place between
death and rebirth,
acceptance and hope.

not quite spring –
that patch of snow
high up, unmelted