

1960

Hawk Roosting

I sit in the ^{foodchain} top of the wood, my eyes closed.

- no predators

Inaction, no falsifying dream

Between my hooked head and hooked feet:

- alliteration draws attention to hooks on all parts of body.

Or in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat.

colon introduces idea of killing in sleep - malicious tone.

5 The convenience of the high trees!

The air's buoyancy and the sun's ray

- sibilance flow - also long vowel sounds reflect totality

Are of advantage to me;

And the earth's face upward for my inspection.

- vulnerable

My feet are locked upon the rough bark.

10 It took the whole of Creation

To produce my foot, my each feather:

Now I hold Creation in my foot

enjambment - shift in topic suggests totality

Or fly up, and revolve it all slowly -

I kill where I please because it is all mine.

- bold - arrogant

15 There is no sophistry in my body:

- no false illusion

My manners are tearing off heads -

- emphasises violence

enjambment

The allotment of death.

For the one path of my flight is direct

- enjambment accentuates flight - which is highly destructive + violent + deliberate

Through the bones of the living.

- piercing skin then bones

20 No arguments assert my right:

The sun is behind me.

- literally + metaphorically - creation 'backing' it.

Nothing has changed since I began.

- stubborn

My eye has permitted no change.

- control - totalitarian

I am going to keep things like this.

- single sentence impo declarative statement.

TED HUGHES

consistent stanza length
= indisputed power and control of the hawk.