I, Charles Olson, left

Oprecht,
walking my bicycle

a trace of chat
on the catless road

seemed to bridge
two far points
moon nodes

where I'd gotten air
the boy said be sure to see
the north ear
the marsh there

nothing intersecting earth
more beautiful

crouched
on the bridge
the faceless one,

Atlementheneira

14 September 1977, Los Angeles
A NOTE ON THE POEM

During August and September, 1975, I copy-edited George Butterick's "Annotations to the Maximus Poems" (of Charles Olson) which The University of California Press published in 1978. My work with the Butterick manuscript involved reading it three times, and often while I would read I would check the poetry of Olson it was annotating. After around six weeks of this, I was really saturated with Olson, and early in the morning, September 14, I had one of those dreams in which a text is presented that appears to be extraordinary. I often have such dreams, sometimes in foreign languages which I "understand" in the dream itself but which, upon waking, evaporate completely. On the morning of the 14th, Olson showed me a poem that he had written after he had died (in 1970), and I made a conscious effort, in the dream itself, to study the poem carefully hoping to remember it when I awoke. I suddenly did awake, with the whole poem still hovering before me, so I jumped out of bed, and raced to my desk and wrote as fast as I could trying not to change anything. Of course I don't know to what extent my imagination was at work even then, but I feel I got a great deal down of what was actually present in the dream.

21 November 1977, Los Angeles