

For Ahmeds

After Lena Khalaf Tufaha

(ahmed=- *al-hamd*, noun one for whom others are grateful)

ahmed alone,

watching a fish move till he became a net swallowing an anchor whole / threw off his

body

and was a blueprint home/ a site /a flotation device/ a wound / iodine / the needle his brother
used / the flame after / petrol shine on a black body / a mouthful of something which was
everything

ahmed say lodestar/ say ocean in his first language /

can't remember homonyms/

carried the oud here anyway/ in his crevices /

swallowed it drinkable /

gave in hollow/ caved/ asked to be a shadow and was / a hole / the bucket after/

wanted / spent/

ahmed asleep the first time he missed his wife /

turning mortal without land

say someone else's earth now/

ahmed thankful/

prayer made out of thigh bones and sweat/ folded to a god that couldn't hear him

ahmed all his children, all their names

oil in too distant -water, the last time they spoke/ date pits to sand

ahmed in wudhu, water held in air,

made the atlantic mouthfuls with his palms