

On Listening to Thelonius Monk

The wedge is a sound.
Thelonius, you discovered,
and I can hear, a speaker,
not speaking, no,
hearing.
Thelonius hears,
listens to the words,
says to the drums,
says to the saxaphones,
Do not stay with meaning;
Move on; Listen.

The words have no meaning yet,
not until they mean, Yes.
The left over of the planet, yes,
after we speak and speak.
Oh, yes, the words,
the only life
these sounds will ever have.

Terrence Heath