

And in our idleness we compare hands

He says, exorcism
improves flexibility of the hands.
Hands clarify,
throw light.

I say, but hands are heavy-duty.
They drag their body behind.
And did he know, first cousin to a hand
is not a foot but a rake. (Let the earth prepare.)

He says, to focus the disintegrating mind
you must place two fingers
on the person's eyes
before you raise the eyelids.

I say, my fingers
are too stiff
from questions.

He says, it's a spritual emergency.
He keeps a collection of items his clients
have spat out. Keys. Nails.

I say, I keep
a magnifying glass to study
my hands, their wrinkling –
a new ordinance of skin.

He says he saw four strapping men
struggle to hold down a young girl.

I say, I held my father close
those last minutes before his hands
dropped like starfish
learning the ocean.

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