

## JANE LEVIN

### COMPLEXITY

I

Like intertwining grape vines  
 forgetting and remembering  
 are rooted together  
 juicy fruit indistinguishable  
 whether from terror or joy  
 I wrestle the branches apart

Desperate to forget

Sterile white uniforms  
 speak apologies  
 for needles spurting astrobright chemicals  
 I offer up my bruised and punctured arm

A volcano of nausea builds, gathers speed  
 crashes into a cave of unconsciousness  
 I am

    three weeks  
 of darkness

Desperate to remember

Mosaic monarchs  
 needle-noses suck up sweet orange nectar  
 Ascend on their  
     three week journey  
 of light

II

Two branches

we struggle to put our bodies together

Judy wants me

    without hair  
     breasts  
     hope

    without anything to give but my gratitude

L'Chaim