

Don Mee Choi

Warsaw-Berlin Glacial Spillway

~ if it weren't so, if it weren't so ~
crystalline snow
Holocene dunes
on top of permafrost

~ if it weren't so, if it weren't so ~
ice age woolly
mammoth tooth
sorely me, solely Spree

~ if it weren't so, if it weren't so ~
pink chronic peats
inside squirrel burrows
sugar sweet seeds

~ if it weren't so, if it weren't so ~
cryosphere Berlin
otherwise ether
my silene serenade

~ cundiman, cundiman ~
~ sorely you, solely Spree ~

Note: *Cundiman*, also written *Kundiman*, and *kung hundi man* in Tagalog means *if it were not so*.
Silene stenophylla is a flowering plant that still grows in the Siberian tundra region.
Scientists were able to grow the plant from fruit stored by squirrels in their burrows 30,000 years ago during the ice age. Berlin lies on top of dunes of mostly sand and peats – strata of sediment and plant matter left behind as the glacier retreated near the end of the Ice Age.