

## XII

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## XII\*

by Édouard Glissant

As one among the bright trees, reborn in the south wind, It's the last night, tomorrow the stone on the stone Will choose itself. And like one who sculpts a bone of blue sulfur. He was singing the bitter night open to the salt and a woman Sadder than in the bonfire the nubile body of the sun When the fire of the sun, itself dying, is changing Within the day and its burning.

—translated by Mary Ann Caws

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;XII" was originally published in French in *Sel noir* (Paris: Gallimard, 1983). The English translation is published with permission from Gallimard.