

Robert PINSKY

SAMURAI SONG

When 1 had no roof 1 made
Audacity my roof. When 1 had
No supper my eyes dined.

When 1 had no eyes 1 listened.
When 1 had no ears 1 thought.
When 1 had no thought 1 waited.

When 1 had no father 1 made
Care my father. When 1 had no
Mother 1 embraced order.

When 1 had no friend 1 made
Quiet my friend. When 1 had no
Enemy 1 opposed my body.

When 1 had no temple 1 made
My voice my temple. 1 have
No priest, my tongue is my choir.

When 1 have no means fortune
Is my means. When 1 have
Nothing, death will be my fortune.

Need is my tactic, detachment
Is my strategy. When 1 had
No lover 1 courted my sleep.