

ALI ZNAIDI

An Outcry

Size of saucers, said to have fallen
thick blue hailstones—hailstones flavored
like oranges.

Punk and silk and charcoal.

Somewhere

between realness and unrealness,
where it had been struck by lightning,
the damned stones raising an outcry.

ABOUT THE POEM

“An Outcry” was created from *The Book of the Damned* by Charles Fort (1919). About the poem and the process of composing it, Ali Znaidi writes:

This erasure poem was an exercise in joy and freedom, as I took a single page and continually crossed out the words that sound silent. Hence, “An Outcry” took shape and came to life in the form of a speculative poem with only those words that outcry.

