Burying the Sky

I.

in Diclofenac this coda this finale
   clean fold into economic flesh ailing livestock
defer death ideal once laced into landscapes
   a slow cyanide final denial acidic fields
coiled ground a clan of bills ecocidal coins
docile green bills folded enact no fines
   no felons clean economical acid-laden
   fold into colic flesh cancel this land

II.

in Doongerwadi dhakma add the bodies ignore
the sky drained of vulture adornment hooked
beaks ordained to drain the dead iron of erosion
vultures who wooed flesh from odorous bone
who gnawed at the graw of the devoted a dodo
undoing who grew ragged with gut stones
did not know the danger of cattle could not be
warned vultures renowned for returning flesh
to sky who dined on the wind of us now die
with a roar in their organs dragged bodies toward
the bony core rewind now to a dawn a dawning
   wonder realisation of a sky raining wings
   a dawn red with ending

Diclofenac is an anti-inflammatory drug given to cattle and which has been attributed to the decline of vulture numbers by more than 95% since the 1990s.

Doongerwadi dhakma (‘tower of silence’) is a sky burial site in Mumbai, where bodies are, or were, left to be consumed by vultures.