



## Annotations to Geoffrey Hill's Speech! Speech!

By Ann Hassan

Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Geoffrey Hill's *Speech! Speech!* (2000) encapsulates two thousand years worth of utterances in a symbolic act of remembrance and expression of despair for the current age, in which we find our minds and ears fouled by degraded public speech-by media hype, insipid sermons, hollow political rhetoric, and the ritual misuse of words. Through 120 densely allusive stanzas- As many as the days that were of SODOM -the poem wrestles this condition from within, fighting fire with fire in an alchemical symbolic labour that transmutes the dross of corrupt and cliched idiom into a dynamic logopoeia that proves true Hill's persistent claim: genuinely difficult art is truly democratic. Such is the weird, ambivalently hostile position of poetry in the present world and thus the space of our real connection to it: Whatever strange relationship we have with the poem, it is not one of enjoyment. It is more like being brushed past, or aside, by an alien being (Hill). Befriending this estrangement, embracing it as a more amicable brushing-up-against, Hassan's Annotations provide a thorough and patient...



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