

He Giveth Tongue

Surely it takes a god this versatile
to dream up language? He must have watched
dumb mortals grunt and point before he matched
their daily needs with eloquence and style

by putting words into their mouths. And then
all babel was let loose. Once taught to speak
the glib ones found innumerable ways to tweak
the truth of things, as poets and liars, admen,

lawyers, politicians, journos, novelists.
And just to complicate the case, Hermes
invented polyglottal possibilities to tease
the world into confusion. Still he broadcasts

means of fabrication: he's the SIM card in your phone,
your satnav's voice, your texts and Twitter, webcam,
broadband fount of knowledge and the source of spam ...
and he'll still be laughing when all's said and done.