

VIJAY SESHADRI

Robocall

Three or four brand-new ideas—not crisp
or sensical but, still, helpful to me—

slipped entirely from my mind
when I ran to get the phone, and heard once again
the 1-800 voice of the One saying,

“If I am He or She or They Who is here
when the last star hisses out, why am I talking to you?
I was thinking of you this morning, but why you?
Para español oprima numero tres.”

Another day ruined by the question of being.
When will they just let me sit under my guava tree?—
eating my guavas, thinking my quarantined thoughts,
nursing my mortified body.