

## Alpha

The proud moon hangs  
With as much certainty  
As a king dying in his bed.

The sycamore modestly sheds its skin,  
Reaching as far as it needs to  
And not an inch farther.

The ocean warns invading ships  
While the reef whispers for it to stop,  
Cradling nature's origins like a nest.

All may someday be auctioned  
To the highest bidder,  
Only to be discarded.

Men will cheat and reign  
And slander their creator like some deformed monster,  
And then beg for forgiveness.

Even the child growing in its mother's womb  
Will face great pain and fault,  
And will someday need forgiveness.

Nature accepts the loss of its own babies,  
Even when a lion  
Slays his young to sustain his dignity;

And we, with an understanding of right and wrong  
Will continue seeking right,  
Which remains, for the time being,

A word resting in books.  
The stubborn fire will eat what it wants  
While the sky crawls on legs of lightning.

## Who We Are

Walk in another person's shoes.

After that I'll give you a match and a paper cup

And ask you to build me a city.

My father drinks too much. My mother shakes her head.

Another man sits on death row after burning down a school.

His mother shakes her head in his childhood bedroom

Where everything was kept the same.

My ex-lover once asked me if the cosmos makes me feel small.

I told her that oceans make me feel small.

She pointed her finger a lot,

But admitted that she wasn't sure how to feel.

Pain was easy—something to locate and almost touch.

Sadness wasn't and came like smoke, like air, like love.

Locate where sadness begins.

After that I'll give you a compass and ask you to find me heaven.

“Don't get me started on heaven,” she would say.

Though I don't believe its stories, I hid our bible

In the car when she was throwing things out.

I heard about a woman who drowned her three children in a bathtub.

A man sits on death row after burning down a school.

When my father opens his first beer, my mother shakes her head.

## Anger & Pride

You and I sat on opposite ends of the bed,  
Back to back.

Gloom fell over the room.  
I thought to ask if you noticed this,  
But was still angry with you.

Water, black as a marsh, found a hole in one of the corners  
And poured in at an alarming rate.

You thought to announce this,  
But didn't want to seem afraid.

Ripples moved over the surface from things beneath.  
Frogs jumped on the bed; mosquitos hatched;  
You could hear everything.

I thought to tell you to raise your feet  
But figured you knew that was the best thing to do.

I heard a loud splash and assumed you threw the lamp.  
Still angry, I never turned.  
The water reached my knees in no time.

## The Mountain and the Sea

I rose from you like a titan,  
My layers developing, an orogeny  
Of your contentment and grief,  
And then was ultimately, me.  
Your surface ever-changing,  
Calm as a floe one moment  
Then crashing into my side,  
Trying to push away  
What couldn't be moved.  
Amidst your stubbornness  
I watched as you swallowed ships  
And contracted the sky  
To swell and send down  
The coldest rain August had ever seen.  
I wanted to hold you  
Amongst the wreckage you created,  
But I was merely a mountain.  
When I stood silent,  
When I wouldn't budge  
Your only option left was to break down,  
As a river does to the earth  
When the earth doesn't want it there;  
The river still decides.  
So you crashed,  
Taking the way water takes,  
Reminding me that I was  
Merely a mountain,  
And you were the sea.

## Omega

Thunder rumbles in the east—  
Earth's voice.

Deep within, dinosaurs rest  
Eyeless and scattered.  
What would we have done with them?

This tiny life crawling across the screen  
Outside my bedroom window,

What is its mission?  
Had it a voice, what would it tell me  
It needed to do before the sun set?

Ribbons of contrail separate the sky  
Over a veil of starlings.  
See the way they move.

Below them traffic spreads like a spine.  
Drivers break and shout and lay  
On their horns.

Thunder in the east.  
Earth's voice.

Will she ever miss us?