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Two Poems: "North" and "The Venus Flytrap"

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NORTH

It's the point a compass is always pointing

The part of a map that shows you are looking at the world in the right way

Upside down, it's still there, the same

It really matters only to the person who is lost, who needs to know where it is
they are and where it is they might need to be days or hours from now

It feels like some place you haven't been yet, a future, or some place you've
already been past

It reminds you, wherever you are, you aren't there even when you *are*

THE VENUS FLYTRAP

Where once stood water

Golden fish and bright sharp scales

A thing the shape of a question mark

Now stands

No longer greening

I didn't follow instructions

I touched its mouth, that opening there

And watched it close up

I gave it nothing

And it took that down like it was something

SOUVANKHAM THAMMAVONGSA has written three poetry books, the most recent of which is *Light* (Pedlar Press, 2013). *Light* won the 2014 Ontario Trillium Book Award.