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Restoring the Balance

Merle Meeter
Dordt College

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Restoring the Balance

Fire in the Everglades!
The black smoke pillaring,
Visible for twenty miles or more
Through the sunlight and blue of noon.

Straight along the concrete Trail,
Bounded by canals, pines, scrub,
We drove at fifty-five—
After a warning for over sixty.

Vultures, hawks, ibis were perched
In tops of dead and living trees;
Kingfishers preened on electric lines
As we neared the conflagration.

No other humans or cars in sight,
We gaped at the twenty-foot flames
Crunching the sapless trees,
Palmettos, and swamp grass.

The God Who expresses the rain
On the wilderness where no man is—
As well as on the woods and farms—
Cleanses with fire to order His creation.