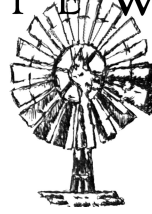


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From What Fire or Breath

Jen Sharda

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From What Fire or Breath

by Jen Sharda

our predecessors
must really have been
something
a twirling of mud
in the sleeping dark
surrounded by faint light
rotating shifts shape planet fattening
compacting on the dust of the universe
oceans watered by cosmic batterings
volcanic medallion bursting
into the heart of dull matter
sword flames
like shafts of an aura
lick alive and quicken first beings
microbes red amoebas
death breeds soil plants
fish land animals
first woman arises in Africa
being seen burns outward
along her whole-hearted side
child sitting woman kneeling man drumming
eternal celebration of devouring life
bringing us all here
letting love blow holes
in lives and selves
brief flames
in its glorious turnings