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The Dreamers

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The Dreamers

Anna Abraham Gasaway

“What happens to a dream deferred?” Langston Hughes

We came drooling, cooing,
tied on our mother’s backs,
presented in rebozos
of teal, red and magenta.

We came
because paid coyotes
spirited us to
the other side.

We came fleeing
an abuser’s pistol
cocked
at our mother’s pregnant womb,
one born in Guadajajara,
the other in San Diego.

Our parents came to work
in the garment district
while we played with scraps,

hidden from bosses
with a deft covering
of silk.

Our mamas took care
of other people’s children
so that we would be fed.

We came thirsty,
trudging,
across the ...desert,
in ...tunnels,
in vans and trucks.

And now, America,
fear stalks us every day.

Now, America
you shun us,
and the whole world
looks away.

