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## Geology

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## Geology

When I am done walking  
I will look up

the definition for geology—  
*word of earth*—

in a dictionary without angles or sides  
that maps the peaks and valleys

of somewhere I've never been. What of  
these spells of breeze and weight,

the hesitance given to the climb,  
the involuntary hurry of descent

will not last? Down  
come the small pebbles

following in the footsteps  
of early boulders, glacial till, one rock

in the crevice  
of my boot. If it's the force

of friction that holds things close  
to the mountain, it is

the forces of gravity and time  
that send them away. Can I

account for the kind of repetition  
not to be taken for infinity?

Could I forget this  
exact spot where today I beheld

clear light bending through clouds,  
the constant

coincidence of meeting my loneliness  
in the same place as my joy?

*Alice B. Fogel*

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ALICE B. FOGEL's latest book is *A Doubtful House* (Bauhan Publishing, 2017). Her collection *Interval: Poems Based on Bach's "Goldberg Variations"* (Schaffner Press, 2015) won the Nicholas Schaffner Award for Music in Literature and the 2016 New Hampshire Literary Award in Poetry. Her poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies. She hikes mountains whenever possible and has completed about half of the Appalachian Trail. She is a former New Hampshire poet laureate.