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notes on forgiveness

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notes on forgiveness _Ayesha Masood Khan

a writer.

a dreamer.

a fighter.

somehow still a realist

protecting, protecting, protecting:

myself, you, you from me, me from you

from disaster, from love, from the sun.

apologies spill from the tip of my tongue

from the tip of my pen,

from the tip of my knife

each stroke, each caress, each tear,

spell your name

spell an apology that doesn't feel enough.

I've said those five letters so many times,

I can't think of better ones.

I can't think of the reason why I'm looking for synonyms

I can't think of how we ended up here

or who this apology is for.

(which one needs it more my dear)

I can't think.

It's all I knew how to do,

now it's as unknown to me as you

all the inkblots on this page

were once your name,

they end up crawling through my pen,

through my veins,

wrapping around my heart,

my cardiac rhythm breaking as you squeeze,

my vision slowly going dark

the bubble pops and I freeze,

I can't figure out if it's vengeance or vulnerability,

if you're leaving again

or loving me.

all the abcs of your name,

they start as me and

end the same,

a broken record spilling a tired apology,

I trace these words all the time,

I write them out in my sleep.

little, nothing, they still mean.

a researcher.

a realist.

a thinker.

somehow still a dreamer.