

# Amaranthus

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Volume 1990 | Issue 1

Article 67

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1-30-2013

## Com(m)a

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### Recommended Citation

Crawford, Shandra (1990) "Com(m)a," *Amaranthus*: Vol. 1990: Iss. 1, Article 67.  
Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/amaranthus/vol1990/iss1/67>

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# Com(m)a

*Shandra Crawford*

It was a line (what is a line) without beginning or end  
singular in shape and form (or was it only perceived as having shape  
and form)

and he stood facing it (or was it at his back)

he did not know the size of the line it could have been as small as a  
millimeter or larger than he was (but size is only a relative term)

His conscious thought told him he was not to cross the line  
(but he knew he could get across it)

and in this world of black and white he could not cross the line (but  
he could!) because if he did, dire circumstances would result (no they  
would not)

But he knew something bad would happen if he did

the line obscured his view (he could see exactly what was on the  
other side) and he did not know what lay on the other side (he saw a  
reason and an understanding just waiting for him on the other side) but  
he knew he had to get there somehow

he approached the line (he did not move) not moving with arms or  
feet yet drawing nearer to the line

the line drew up before him (it receded) and he extended his hands  
(he drew them back) to the line he encountered cold (heat) and his hands  
touched a smooth surface (they felt nothing) he began to crawl up  
(down) the side of the line (but does a line have a side) and suddenly a  
searing pain shot through his body and he slid off the line (he was never  
on it)

The pain reminded him of why he could never cross the line  
(he could, there was no pain) ever.

—"Dr. Somaton, a flare on the brainwave monitor!"

"Where?"

"Here."

"Nothing to worry about, just a REM."

"Sure?"

"Yes, perfectly normal with this condition."

"Sure?"

"Of course. He's been like that for five years. Why, he's practically  
braintead."—

He sensed nothing (there had been movement, a presence)

He saw the line (what is a line) without beginning or end, singular in shape and form (or was it only perceived as having shape and form)

his conscious thought told him he was not to cross the line (but he knew he had to cross it!) and in this world of black and white he could not cross the line (but he could!) because if he did dire circumstances would result (no they would not) but he knew something bad would happen if he did