

## Reprieve

by Kareem Ali

Through this final winter evening  
I see you in the distant meadow,  
Engulfed in that elixir of dust into dawn.  
There you hold your breath perfectly still,  
Your arms crossed and strained,  
Your exhausted eyes  
Still splayed open to past winter heat.

From the cliff  
You swim out into a quilt of trees,  
Desperately holding onto the remains  
Of this dying evening.  
In the distance the black-eyed sunlight  
Is divided into fissures of violet light.

Beyond the skirts of wetlands and shore,  
Blue sparrows collapse into flight  
Past the wastelands of your movements.  
Brigades of priests arrive,  
Just as the quicksand of memories  
Subsides.

## Written in Seattle

by Joe M.

a glass of coffee in the morning,  
a cup of wine in the evening;  
i'm the happiest person alive.  
at least on this planet...

## The Slow Flow

by Michone Nettles

As water moves slowly downstream,  
currents push and pull with a consistent flow.  
Sun's reflection looks like glass.  
Showing clouds above that resemble faces that we know,  
looking at a hairless child smiling at the sky  
with pure delight in the heart,  
not yet knowing what the world has in store for the future.  
Raindrops fall on heads with hair, that know not the hour.  
Ambush in the night, if they could they would.  
Only true love conquers all human nature,  
the truth is all we have inside,  
honesty is all we have to deal with  
and can make our lives worth living.

## A play on love

by Avendor

I want to sprinkle flowers upon you  
and lay gemstones at your feet  
I want to meet you at the fountain  
in the city, so discrete  
I want to mesmerize the world  
by having you in my company  
I want to talk all night by the fire  
on the shore, of the sea  
And last of all I want  
you and I to make a pact  
That we'll be with each other in heaven  
after we've completed our final acts.

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