

Reprieve

by Kareem Ali

From the remains of this evening
I see you in the distant meadow
Your arms crossed perfectly still,
Your broken eyes
Still bleeding out into past winter heat

From the cliff
You swim out to where the blackened sunlight
Divides into fissures of light

There
Blue sparrows commit to flight
Just as
The brigade of priests arrives
And the quicksand of memories
Subsides.

Purgation

by Bryant King

I encourage us to purge any
Tendencies we have to think
Of ourselves as hound animals.
Angry, wounded victims, leaky
Vessels aching to be filled, or
Broken creatures yearning for
Rescue. As it happens, now is
The perfect time for us to
Perform this purgation. We
Have the power to reverse our
Self-damage so it resounds
With poise, self-sufficiency,
And sovereignty!

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