Between the Fabric & The Cause

Neil Clifton Cain

I. Flesh & Sail

sharp beams peeking thru the ether

sentiment hung like a strong scent

colored in bathing formations

casting every spin to come

you must go on

all else a night too long, a day that never ends

the cycle's witness must remember sparkles in the spin frame

colors in a true light

remember our psalm?

haze on the highway yellow in the full sun dust of dry summer

flakes on the horizon dark a band of white

I close my eyes

all the harmonies that are hidden in the static

and how we choose the story

all the harmonies that are waiting in the silence

and how in that space

Pulverized the gale spent

we wrecked in coastal waters

forced to go

into fits and panic

to know this coldest grasp

I left myself and was warm, an orb along the wave break

I came together on the beach numb & grasping

(the water washing up warm contrasting the wind)

the cliffs the birds so much undisturbed this part of me up

an eye in the catastrophe

that part of me

fruit of Earth & sky

a circle the curist turns casting rainbow scatters on their faces

an undulating axis

which world I'm tethered to still

regardless of this gravitation

thru time there are holes, places made timeless

what taste of Persimmon in mid-winter one might call

what touch of grass and smell of her

in storming desert crossing

I saw you peeking between yarrow stalks

I heard you, harp-like casting some breeze

placing grass blades together to whistle when you blow

what heat will make rise,

smoke shifts and that bird again calls

songs I remember only on some lucky morning

such taste my subtle savior

lily, loam, moist erasure

fall one tightrope to another

range, post, and exotic counterweights

to emulsify and condition

this happening

the pendulum swung and hung leisurely to the left

the zebras divided amongst the river plain and the lava field

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the hold was loosed and to the right

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a man stood like a tree slowly, mind quieted by work

my roots hang in air misted by dew drops, misted with honey

my columns sent skyward, the bough, my limb how would you explain the horizon snapped to focus

'til you could travel any distance?

you may describe the pores that hide in everything

or the swerving scout

birth death just a piece

how about lapsing stays in any one of these three bodies?

or the line where matter crosses over into energy

and back?

the breeze in my hands lays wormholes in my arms

they're holding service in there

when the bodiless seep from the corners

and between everything

perhaps they'll run a rope

the trance of waves lifting and crashing the hull

every minute of unconsciousness

patterned my molecules

fierce curls

barreling to the shoreline seldom found

hurl spelt of the sky's wheat and see me wavering

given gems to the cape in furious blast & blow

panoramic blips

shrapnel of scales raining over the racing beat, skip, beat jump

a trumpet, unanswering, calls lone notes

flurries erupt

spasmodic exchanges of chord mash

and time jumped within

and burst from,

lurching, burrowing, break

spliced a dandelion to my finger in September

now I can't man your grinding wheel

found the frequency of the peninsula,

radiant between the ocean and the bay

stints of snow then sunbursts

green hooked limbs holding piles of white

the work of the icy trees

that cold morning none can erase

always somewhere else as well in front is us

the prism so faceted as to leave itself incalculable

so in the light spins our eyes

to see what cascades by and remember

that simple Autumn eve that simple shout for heaven

a sense that this could grow thru the centuries and the guilt

we're growing love nests like never before

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all was lost to find more than could be imagined why waste the pressing scenes? to be ever still, ever travelling

a chin up to wrest a leg up, innocence beseeching

you bring something back

-

everyone to ride this resonance

the chakras replace the turn style

the breeze, the breeze sooth always passing always passing thru

come unannounced

gone without a cry

Nurture wild

reckless the mead of souls contained

Breeching birth ways blood to make smear the sigils sewn in heart stays

Single set, turned a head

two hawks fly the circle

we've been gone for so long the seeds were near forgotten remember to harvest what they know not the working

light the candle of cedar & tallow, the torch of tarred hide,

imitate thru the stern of their reemergence

once carried on now endless & spawning a renaissance that needs a new mind to comprehend

the scope, paramount

the sheen of our skills

shining brighten light

a hold lost, if betrayed

woven, splendid,

colored with the dirt of metals meeting air,

my rings are dire memories of spring,

into summer,

into fall

storehouses
of vision mirror
spirit food
the wave
the wand
we wander

among our axis'

we turn to mist

and condense after sunset

to run

A Cave To Come Under

charcoal stains on both your hands

a horse sleeps

once the candle blown out

in the darkness

a horse gallops in the flames dance once more

to see in our beings where our bodies are not

we have chipped away at space, chipped away at time

as a key to our survival

as the healer spans we spoke

to the otherlands

we decreed and were heard, hurt no more

we were received into our bounty, a hand held hundreds is there more beneath the topsoil? past the sand for miles?

a stone forming drip by drip

clear mask of water

call my bodies back

stream the sweet smoke

make me well

a beauteous decision, to allow the mind to stay there on that coast

a barometer leveling

to allow the body to stand singular and bounce and spin

to allow the spirit trick in purple ribbons paid,

to allow a thought to kneel

and allow a buttress hook holding up the dreamstate within who's roof you're under

the calamity whose golden hands you've found how am I to listen to your science of words

when I see black curls easing pools of smoke

and green springs shooting skyward, leafless?

cords of force tunneling down

heat swells in the face

side spin of separation

days to recall

the paralleling and where?

what once coming together again ran beside itself

cunning

bewildered

pockets trailing Oak leaves

lapse breath

blooming

the room sent vastly to another

we wince and open our eyes

what're you?

the tides have turned

I'm a lynx and bear sleeping,

bugle of an elk

the pines standing, standing

living witness

held softly like fabric

growing hardy now and full

to transform waste into water

each day a quiet festival undeclared

a life of these tiers

leapt from juggling platforms, my height, squared

the dark holds a fiddle that dances me, and cries me, and tortures me with silence

to do the work of Trilobites

tomes coiled in crystalline stone

they span wing time of a midnight

a lion looking on

a copper key, spiraled & spoonlike

don't let the spotlight ruin what is more powerful in the dark

a kite wind, a march of necessity, cold hands & mourning

the well so deep, the ropes run us bare

we pull up cups full of elixir for the many mouths, the many mouths,

there is an aquifer waiting to find some fissure and come to us nourishing pristine abundant

there is some lock's key turning,

and it may take centuries,

we might get lost along the way

we transcribe the notes of twilight signing sigils in moonlight on the tree floor

in hopes of gaining some mercy, to do the work of dreams

where could it come from? where has it been?

already a stark trance against dark grey

wind cocks the arch bridge blown noisily up my face

and thru my hair

adventuresome treads walk the dome and the trench

who's out there?

startling all the millions

we could build a castle out of sky boughs

in a night with our hand held

to have ventured

to have been tracked and scoured

the exit will find the owner's artist

obeliscient procession

a lustrous vein

wraps & ties & binding
steady march
wind in dried corn silks
basil seeds hold a downy feather

ring from the sun in deepest west moon to sky colored hills departing by the moment

sacred teeth knocked from the skull

sacred breath moved from the chest

in the dry Autumn river bed, I know Damns (an) opening

hold it keep it

make more of surrender

the hound loosed

the green in the set

the dawn waits for no one still

we pause and count the minutes

help me disappear and reappear with ease

help me keep straight what never could be

strange, he rich in gold so few can see camphor & ghee, each step mercy,

take root graft tree and your hairy swarm of foreign medicine branches

I've seen you fruiting at will

the people wait with backs turned, eating their hope

still they wait

as if the vase, when empty, would be clear water

The Fuel of Collision Colors

instincts
shed of wrath
or rain
come by
to tear thru Tansy
rushing thru clearing,
forest, clearing,
wade in the willows,
the sap found,
to bring back
the flux

look up

the light outside what deed still sees you

pain coming to cull the mind

coming to take a thrash and clear your cobwebs, vitalize you with fire

you are new

now

and forever

more than

your past bliss & imperfection

you are

free from

the tethers once binding

speeding forward we are walking millennia, porous

as a waterfall pushes at the door

wherever I leave somewhere I return

and in these cycles burn out the spaces wasted where hope follows

release the tremble release the antigen

knead supple muscles bound made of our suffering

whip in ellipses redefining speed

to my lovelies, ignite your stars form a constellation

I see you all in myriad of night

twinkling between planets

the spirit feeds on plush and angles of light, skin tones & feeling

what you might do to bear within all taken chances

a soft mouth chewing

some darkness holding my belly and pulling me to my feet

some light washing me out and so I hide

they cut into the hillsides made steps in the stone

they bought the lot on tax sale scrub trees, fill dirt, & broken glass

they made steel wings from iron ore and carbon of everything burned her memories thru the sky

they made horns bark & cry made language of beat & squeak

they marked the names of ancestors in blood, scar, ink on tattooed hands

they surrendered and let their hair grow, shaved their heads, the breaking pain of wonder

burning our mistakes

I love all things at once

our currents have come, in waiting,

our currents have come despite our sleeping,

as if they've practiced forgiveness our currents have come

and shaped whereour land(what land is in us)

meets (what water is in us) our water

some bitter shapes

some crescent cones

our currents have come

as if beside us

(we've matched speed with) little white crests

we've breathed our hearts as the sunrise upon

silt of our destiny

bitter root, dark, earth pure white clay, quartz dust

rusty tracks where have you broken?

hard wind, black wool, one night away walk on

old foot trails, have you grown over?

they've pieced the land up

so the land lights us up and we dance the gain we part

wrestled down

prey so wild

flashes of color the length echoing up of horns

hooves of granite hooves of obsidian

sweeping the grasses in trails of black, a razing whip to the four directions

with the sound of a great exhale

'ternal seed

scorched free of the husk to sprout

awakened in unbearable extremes

I've been whittled to bend and snap back with a violent force

held down
I've been known to wait
and sneak away in the soil

innocent ocean churn & free

sinful self ordering arrow flocks

turn your shackles into candy

reflected light of rain

on the trail leaves

ghosts inside the foot & brow

something broke in them this day where suns are setting and suns are setting and rising just the same

and something set into pace where noontime is waiting and noontime is waiting in the waking hour 'fore second sleep

and something fused within where hearts reach into space and bodies separate

wrest the deed from some layer of atmosphere

bridging faces of mountain ice and sting rays

the web in which we leapt

pilings of vomit & kisses

hard labor & tine staves

thread pulled from nothing into sight

to patch the quilt together with scraps from other lives

raked the strings,
rang as if
dissonance and consonance
were Ultramarine and Jonquil
mixing into some dark harlequin

a wash of wind chimes some fast, some slow

(all the calls that went south away from cold)

the pain breaks and a needle pulls through

(burrow, den, isolation)

my heart jumps and a new joy resounds

my thought skips and I see the strings of light

half-death awaiting

inoculate my memories with color and vivid detail

so we may live again

in our other bodies, the times spent together the sounds of fleetest fall, the cast of those lifting drift towards imminent horizons

yellow, golden, orange, blood red

a break decides as rust endears and a scar can change your face forever

carved in the pavement a roost for the wishbone

saw your name written in the (exposed) rock & spruce

except it wasn't your name

it just looked as your sound walking towards me

a break decides as trust endears and one look can change your face forever you wake me up
in the dark
early, early morning
and have me walk
as a telling cloud came low

and by the river showed me where he would appear at the right moment of dawn

> you took me home and made me get up like any other day

> > then left

giving nothing to share, but an anonymous weight

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there are gems inside says some riddle,

I've been tossed around, as all I've requested

chewed on for entire days

made to walk

to not one ear that would listen

to learn the art of being danced

to the players go the prize

and late nights and battled selves

and being taken away

the peace we are forgiving, introduced to you, said come find me

hiding in some sediment

chipped out with a pick ax as the labor tolls

somehow

popped out of a rain so cold, numbed in despair, then...

I've been undressing for a decade, how could I expect scales & fur, or the breast I'd been given?

IV. As If It Were A Rose We Wore

up all night, talk of a man, a farmer, raindrop, otter

when we slept to sun cascading up with slivers thru leaves

we dreamt of honey
as if it were a rose we wore,
and dreamt of all those other lands,
as if they were our hair,
as, if you opened our skulls
there'd be pictures
of what lines the cliffsides,

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a bliss bay
 white
sunshine
  between our
   fingers
the lock leased
  wide open
  we hold
  and build
 let the roots
  sneak
 white tender
stones broken in
  our flames
 all the nights pushed back
the moon ever-present,
  the soil loose & loamy
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I see their place in starred luminaries every minute of day melted in a bergamot candle

what capture light we've held and allowed to crystallize,

the gift of the prismatic

hidden inside

disciples of the bouncy ball, rubber & rose

students of the windfall & the break

move forward the words dance

a life of their own,

of our evolution

find the throne of moss & ivy

see the doe, calm as the wind, she went drove at pitch forth rode the arbor down

gleaned of a silk rose and it's scent preserved

must it be the smell of your hand?

held in a moment so discreet for hours upon waking

cleaned my feet in river clay

that feels of heavy silk and has no smell

the color, softglorious blue, shallow bay, white sand, high tide amazement

first winks that same hue

again, lapis pigment paste and titanium

malachite powder

blackest carbon

orange of the iron earth

you

of cascading resolutions

of the flourish

the Moor's mist & dew

this milky petal, golden sap resin, cheek grazed to kiss

(and the scents and saving graces)

a nectar,

at last we see our breath

news to the mountain, moisture of the haze,

cool white swift

so many breaths of fresh air at once

to be that ash so fresh fallen

that nothing were more when in our arms space held

(that knot) locked & thick

teased loose

roving around like molten glass yearning

cooling into honeycombs of smoothest texture

and we drove and drove thru hills above, hills below, hills to home 'til morning

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raw
the most beautiful of land
to my eye
in late summer,
we had it all
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any speed felt nothing
in the vast discussion
of two symphonies,
the sagebrush,
auburn grass,
and the conifers
disappearing into pitch & stone

like a needle piercing a lobe thick as the prairie to the mountains we, a long,

escalating,

held,

breath

where none see gaps slowly to chasm

when all is milky and flows I chase the live sprout there and across the dark (I must)

when all is strong and moving a force solid as chest high water rushing in spring rain

and you know there are countless undiscovered colors

and some in danger of becoming extinct

black, the sea told the new moon underwater

what lights you have come

and what lays all about between them

some heart cords' fate to be buried

one face, born back again and again, out of all others

who are all the facets faced away?

one blinding center facing me

her darkest plane behind her, faced away same as my darkness lurching out behind my back

which way might the light come from tomorrow?

which side of the prism
hit
made to glow
and with the spectrum angles
the course
of one tide

columns of Cypress hold the golden bowl's flame

the past is tinder

is still a place in time

is walking on all fours smelling us out in the nightscape

my feet at climbing pace

beside myself for days,

the witness glimpsing

cornerstone a spiral,

Court the winter with Hellebores

thru the snowdrop crocus harbinger

eerie fox cry by the river thicket dashed to, from, to

etching on our edifices

in the Eagle eye turned bear claw clutching obsidian,

chewing on the bitterroot

V.

Of Helixes Performed

as you might come to me, wind under branches

as we might sing the shadow so, may sing the day

as you would, cold to survival, hunger as thou might,

tighten the tether

and make meals of the pebbles at my feet

I stopped sleeping, waking eye on the hour

window of coming apart

crackling like live wires whipping in a puddle

sparks like a Supernova at any hour of night

it hums like a generator,

creaks and heaves like boiler room steam pipes someone tapping code inside the walls

patterns in the bark glare

clouds hold back,

look on

the age's order changing state to state

some front comes in from below the floor

eyes stutter as pulls back the curtain

singular in thoughtlessness

quiet, stalking

irregular intervals chime by a twig crack

a dusting spore

a creamy rind to decay away leaving fertile pockets for seed saw three rivers meet, combining

and the infinite ways hills can rise

silence that can make one invisible

roots that shake in your hand

glow and the out of sights

poised upon a leap and moving on

poised for a leap then sauntering down

poised for a leap

what was the endless flat turned steppe, land jutted below

and on and on and on

what was the peak has become foothills, there is no summit, only vistas as you climb,

the pulls to separate

colors come alive I rush forth

the incredible power in one moment to be

endlessly

and underneath the bridge pass, the river's run, the tumbling stone, Green, green of some pasture I wish for

stunted, the light born sing

thru alleyways and fences, moving

on castle sands, the cloud's spark and rushing

a boom sent, the light of day into a moment of midnight