

HAWAI'I

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Honorable Mention, Poetry

Part I

where the right faces
lay on the raw spaces
an eruption
of evolutions unfold.
gorgeous font in a tenacious text
the penmanship is wretched but
oh! how it covers the page!

words fail
the strata slips, stumbles
fissures slither
in a bedrock of fear.
hope like lichen
virulent green
violent ochre

consider the lilies of the field
shark fins slicing eons
giggling wickedly
through robotic eyes
at the fall of the vast Roman Empire.
millions of years swirl
in the wake of a tail
these most pristine of soldiers

they toil not, neither do they spin
unless they want to!
orca, humpback, narwhal, sperm
not deterred or distracted
by gravity.
a field? a force?
we quarrel, they snicker
bubble nets
dreidl tops
baleen krill condominiums
seal fur for dental floss

Part II

solomon in all his glory
stars smash and scatter
trails of trilobites
dribbles of nautilus
time leaves a snail's trail.
Incessant geometry
sweet spirals through millions of years
the threat of Chordata coiled
in creamy grey shells

was not arrayed as one of these
smooth hills and houses
eyes big as sea stones
blacker than lava
just as alive
measured in a different time.
soft shells in black sand
sweet as a sitar's softest hum
a fury of cormerants
a rat's nest of mongoose
ballast on land
wingspan at sea.
sea turtles, improbable
the globe covets only two nesting sites
The moon holds her breath
lets it out
tidepools and iceplants riot
this island,
so fragile
threadthin reverie