

To Understand the Earth

To understand the Earth's voice
You need to speak the language of rupturing rock,
To interpret the sudden booms
The shattering of fault lines.

To understand the Earth's voice
You need to read between the fossil lines,
To comprehend the symbols
The trail of living things.

To understand the Earth's voice
You need to be still and listen in the wild places,
To hear the stories told by wind and water
The shapers of all life.

And even when this language is so foreign
That you cannot find the sense,
Know this: There is only one
Earth.

The Earth's Voice

I heard the Earth speak
A bellowing rumble
Rock faulting against rock
From its epicentre
A shout so loud
I tremor and quake

I heard the Earth speak
A breathy whisper
Through limestone caverns
Where black rivers flow
A whisper so slight
I shiver with cold

I heard the Earth speak
A hissing scream
Of boiling geysers
The crust, thin, fractured
A scream so shrill
I retreat in awe

I heard the Earth speak
A shattering crack
Glacier calving ice
Ice falling into lake
A crack so piercing
I cry for its loss