

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Deena Metzger: Two Poems

Deena Metzger · Wednesday, May 13th, 2020

### Tattered Flags Across Richmond Bridge

*for Krystyna*

The way two images become one occasion,  
because the wind is a messenger,  
and, perhaps, also a creator.  
Wind, breath, spirit, the same  
in languages arising from seeds  
carried great distances,  
even up river or across the sea  
to be planted in distant places.

The land becomes a vast altar  
before our eyes as we gaze,  
eyes closed, at what is  
sanctified between us.  
The sacred does not need us  
to manufacture anything,  
but to tend what springs  
from the soil, and even the fire  
at the center of the Earth.

Today, an old friend sent a photo:  
she is standing in a stream alongside  
an Elephant who is healing  
from the terrible work of our hands.

The flags flying between the eucalyptus trees,  
have images of Wolves  
who are, at this moment,  
suffering the hunt.

A young Christian girl wrote from Georgia  
asking about the Spirits and calling herself,  
Little Lost Wolf.

Whatever we do or don't do,  
the water remains the water,  
the air remains the air,  
whatever dark burdens  
we force them to carry.  
And you, there,  
gaze, with awe,  
at the invisible, revealed by the flags breezing  
along Richmond Bridge,  
the way I, here, gaze  
at tattered flags between the trees.

What we ask, is to hold each other,  
as we lean into the wind,  
or dive deep into the holy waters  
in order to serve promises we made  
before we were born.

\*

## Night Canoe

When the language of prayer  
is a tree, walking,  
or the steady oars  
of a night canoe across the sky,  
and each word spoken  
is a step on the path  
of not gaining on the future,  
then, we can also go out,  
as we once did,  
dodging Spider webs  
slung across trees,  
trembling  
as we give our word.

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