

## to the former nevadan (from a being of divine compassion)

Garnet Juniper Nelson

dear one, you require no pardoning. you are acquitted  
of the wrong of you; release that sense of worthlessness;  
you are relieved of the burden of worth. unwind  
your jaw, roll your skull between your shoulders  
like a bead in a wide bowl. your soul is welcome  
and safe. you are held. you are kept so securely,  
with such warmth. can you feel it radiating out  
from fingertips, coagulating between your thighs?  
do you feel it filling your heart, shifting the water  
that's lingered there so long? tell me you feel joy  
coursing within you like black locusts' roots  
through topsoil. tell me it's stubborn, sending shoots  
up far from the felled mother's stump, that it's taking over.  
it's okay. let the pods gestate. let their seeds of comfort germinate.