

## **Petition to the Great Breath**

I write to you, Great Breath,  
for you abide in every living thing.  
You change each night. The loss  
of light transmogrifies you  
into CO<sub>2</sub>.

Tomorrow with your bright companion  
you will photosynthesize again  
and each pneumatic moment  
should inflate our day with life.  
But that is not enough.

This morbid, sleek predator is stealing  
breath away from old and young  
and in this land of ours we have just one.  
A single respirator to restore the breath  
of each Somalian who clings to the last gasp.

For we have Midas-men who grasp  
our gold and mineral wealth, disdain  
the thought of any other soul who needs  
the chance of health and home and hope  
that charity alone cannot restore.

Please blow the wind of change our way.  
We ask for nothing more.

**Anne Connolly**