

# Water Dog

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clear-eyed out of water  
graceful under water  
swift and playful  
in the search for life

on the bank, in the river  
in the river, off the shore  
between  
balanced

furry master of the extremes  
teach us  
to know when to breathe  
and when to hold

to live mindfully  
in our own intersections

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between the muddy banks of the river  
the otter plays  
moving between worlds  
and I hear him repeat silently

his words of advice  
become more than human  
so that you may become  
truly human

and so I became  
the noise of a bee buzzing in a blossom  
fat-bodied and dusted with pollen  
I tasted the wind

as a pair of seagull's wings  
tossed by currents  
that I could not verbalize  
some barrier within me

had been dissolved  
and the croziers of ferns  
unfurled  
in a dark place in my soul

# Confluence

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oceans gather where  
ancient turtles lay eggs  
at the edge of time

I run my fingers through the soil  
beneath an oak tree  
and visualize  
mycological veins and roots

coiling for miles all around me  
glowing with an amber fire

oceans gather where  
arctic terns sleep on the wing  
between realities

I examine my iris  
in a mirror  
I see flecks of  
blue and white

like the surf on an ocean  
seen from an airplane

oceans merge where  
humpback whales sing  
into the echo chambers of the Milky Way

# The Skin is Not a Boundary

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the skin is not a boundary  
it encapsulates entire clusters of galaxies  
and light years of distance  
into a form insignificant and beautiful

seeds were sown in the darkness  
in the soil between the stars  
as a ripple extended outwards  
from supernovae in the cosmic void

across mythologies of time and space  
into the physicality of this body  
these fingers these eyes this breath  
are all a concentration of the universe

and the skin is not a boundary  
spinning atoms do not say  
I am human or I am not human  
all bodies and all minds alike

share the bedrock of a common dream  
and the dream returns constantly  
to the source  
melting back into the mystery from which it rises

**Seamus Brady**