

# forgiveness

*by* Deborah Oster Pannell

she sees that no one has considered her needs  
she feels left out, and so she strikes out  
on the offensive, nostrils flaring  
points her finger and makes her case  
she has been wronged,  
justified in her anger  
she will not back down

the accused one is hurt  
strikes back with her own righteous indignation  
each one's pain bounces off the other's  
blossoming quickly into harsh words  
echoing into oblivion  
profanity rings out  
control has been officially lost  
forgiveness spiraling out of reach

afterwards i wondered  
what could have been done  
an entire series of bad choices  
rolled out before me  
unraveling the calm and peace of the moment

i did not step in  
i did not make a case for either one  
i watched, sad, curious  
wondering what it takes  
to feel another's pain first, before your own

