Memory and Restoration

by Gary Hardaway

How wings understand and celebrate the air.
How eyes interrogate the stars and touch the moon.
How waves bubble and spread silver across the sand.
How the cool water feels rushing across the tongue
and swirling down the throat to sate the belly's thirst.
How a breeze feels evaporating sweat on neck and forearms.
How the neat whisky burns and anesthetizes gums
and the back of the throat on its way to tickling the liver.
How the delirium of arousal sweetens the breath,
neck, ribs, fingertips and arms of the desired.
How the sharp fatigue of sleep deprivation softens and
dissolves with the knowing early morning smile of the child.
How the recollection of a few things restores the posture
of one stooped by accumulated disappointments.

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