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## rain

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# Rain

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MADDISON FRYAR

It's different here. Here where the earth  
is lifeless for half the year.  
Nature grieves. Here its life bleeds out  
as chlorophyll is drained from an incessant wound.  
It is a barren place, with pointed rocks and  
jagged roots that delight in  
tripping the occasional, unsuspecting soul.  
Here dust permeates each pond,  
Each field and plain, until everything  
is soaked in red.

And There is distant, out of reach. There  
the earth's existence never dims.  
Nature beams. It illuminates the trees  
and the grass and wings of  
the sparrows flying among the clouds.  
Spring rain drops on the berries, blue and black.  
There it is simple. There it is good.

There I can breathe.

In both the sky fractures, in both it cries  
as rain pours down from Heaven's eyes.  
Thunder shakes the foundation of my room,  
while Atlas's howl echoes across the atmosphere's dome.  
The wind rushes through the leaves  
Of the pecan tree in my yard and the nuts fall,  
cracking against my roof as lightning  
ignites the angry sky.