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Freefall In Reverse

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Freefall In Reverse
By Lalini Shanala Ranaraja

dis. prefix.

signifying absence, cessation, space; disappearance, discontinuation, distance.
in the morass of my discontent where lockdown had left me,
I dissolved slowly into the bones of myself
newly unearthed, drowned
in the dissonance between where I saw me and what I was.

disappointment was a burrow where I hunkered down
for the summer, chasing dissolution from the lips
of the New Amsterdam vodka I risked my life to buy
by jaywalking between traffic lights, disbelief
a welcome cloud as I disintegrated
on the porch swing, skin pooling like tar through the white slats,
distilled into darkness under the house
with the deflated football and the rabbit turds.

dis is also *dec* is also *dys*,
disturbance breeding deceit birthing dysfunction.
I stand over myself in the middle of the night crooning
welcome to the rest of your life.

content. noun-verb-adjective. what is contained within.
creation of the impression that one is doing something.
there is so much content now and none of it is ever enough,
all of us doomscrolling our way down a repository
that will never end. consent to these terms of service,
let other people fight for you.
add *in* another sound that signals the mucky insides,
and we have a continent. I carry mine with me,
all of them bleeding,
and I wonder if we will ever go home.

ment. suffix turning nouns into other nouns
that could stand alone without it; therefore
it is dispensable, until it finds another random assortment
to which to cling, to create some beloved useless thing.
raiment. condiment. ornament.
in all of our closets, one outfit brighter than the rainbow,

spanning an infinite spectrum, from widows-white to wedding-crimson.
in our minds we dance away the disillusionment,
our hair alive with each other's fingers
that spin the air gold like coriander.

END