The Ashes of Manna Wendy Raymaley

Understand that manna will turn to ash and that fountains will become dry when we turn inward.

Know that instruments will be silent and that a dancer's grace will become a fall when words are unspoken and minds are closed.

Know that while we build with concrete and steel palm tree and papaya forests shrivel in the harsh glare.

Realize that gloating drowns out the cries of the starving.

Beware that though technology connects,

it does not lift our hearts or touch the weak.

Boil the water clean and do not ignore those who suffer from thirst. Uphold the documents of just civilizations and make them strong.

Make the pits plentiful, or we will all eat the ashes of manna.

Second Place Winner, OSU at Marion High School Poetry Contest

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