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by
Banana Nano
Illustration Cover

Return to me, O Lord!

I cannot live apart from you.
from your jeweled landscape.

dust,

Ashes to ashes

Run to meet me!

running over.

pressed down, shaken together

Give to me your good measure

you squeeze light from vapors.

In the heavens

of newborn stars.

in the rolling nebulae

of death.

and carry me from the gates

See my affliction

Don't stand so far off.

Be gracious with me, O Lord!

All that is upon the Earth

is Yours. You are in all of it,

even the man-made garbage.

There are some ugly things

we have wrought: the plastic bag

stuck in the top

of the maple tree –

the wind can't blow it out,

and its molecules will not break

apart, and it is perpetually singing

"Save Big Money", and the chain

link fences and cement, too, for

example, but You are in us, the

creators of this garbage. We are

your most precious creation. So I

know that someday we will do

better.

Praise in the highest to my God!

He looks out over the cities—

the strings of abodes (houses,

factories, warehouses)

that we are busy

laying out over the Earth

in our ordered way –

while he arranges

in the expanses

of the universe

winding nebulae,

gulches, stars, mesas,

rocks, black holes,

mountains, passes,

dust, sierras

and tables before us,

Praise be to my God in the highest!

Though I waste away

and day by day inch

closer to my grave,

yet You comfort me

and fill me with joy.

Your hands hold me.

Your fingers gently lift

my head

and wipe away the tears.

I praise you

day and night

I praise you

dark or light.

Blind of sight,

I praise you.

I praise you because

you are so very good

to me.

Bless the Lord of my soul –

All that is within me.

Bless your Holy Name.

You make my skin tingle

in the cold fall air,

my breath surge

like breaking waves.

You make my fingers feel

prickly seeds of Musk Thistle

which will stick around

even for the grandchildren

of my children,

in other words

after I am long forgotten

their fingers will be pricked

and bleed.

You set my heart to sing

at the Mystery of Your Ways!