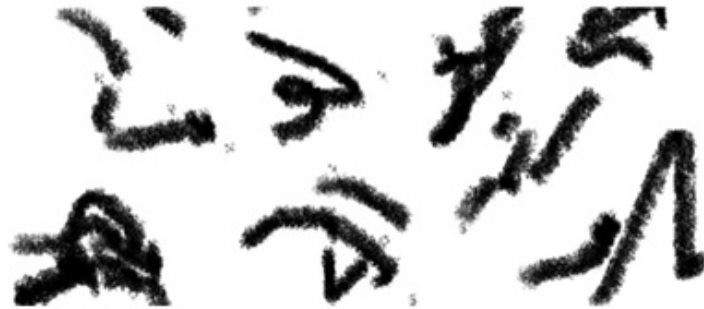


we do not bleed like nightingales when felled singing

a sequence of one-line poems
Alegria Imperial



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Bones

somehow it's frail the silence between sun breaks and blizzards

as if the soft rocking of brown willows were a psalm

a gull's cry knee-deep in foam... the tide our quiet souls

flailing winds... whole notes the size of sea spray

a weight in volumes that roots our wildness

forest pith sopping-wet a moss-furred dusk

a drizzle tinkling in parched pools

the wind-shaken birch piping old pains too late to replace

a cypress hedge nursing hoarseness since long ago

when the waning moon a pregnant sea receding in the swell

shadow patterns chiming in condensed emptiness

wet whispers... our songs drying out in thin breeze



i wonder what gets children into cages... is it a crescendo of sand hills?

it's always the mourning dove spring twilight

moon waves we roll with... propped up against ridged darkness

night spoons our songs into pulsing tongues

floating on bleak clouds...a republic of half notes lightning lanced

slurred hymns sun-crazed vireos turn up breast-beating

kettle drums...back and forth back and forth a slip

the throats of sleep careening into night's entrails

beat by beat animal moans... the sky's malignant blue

why not end at least on gold-gilt crags if whistles reverse the solstice orbit

a woman's voice brimming salt on lips that swamps the real world

folding and unfolding elegies tucking in threadbare seams under ribs

i doubt the words we pick could stitch up frayed strings

mirror-glare when disrobed starts raining

a liquid sky leaking excess lamentations...

dimming light years of unsweetened dust

a vagueness in the cock's crow on a shifted key

flattened curves in the rise and fall of our breaths

already the poison ivy disentangling to bed our fall

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Artwork: doodles by the author.

About Alegria Imperial:

A former journalist in the Philippines, Alegria, has been writing mainstream poems before she started writing haiku and other Japanese short poetry forms after she stumbled on a collection of Basho. Her first published haiku also won Honorable Mention in the 2007 Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Haiku Invitational. Since then, her haiku and other poems have appeared in several journals and anthologies in print and on the web, some gaining more awards. Her first collection, an e-chapbook, “counting star bones”, showcases Alegria’s distinct contemporary voice; it can be accessed at The Haiku Foundation’s Digital Library. She immigrated to Vancouver, BC, Canada in 2006 where she now lives.

