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from Water is Water

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from *Water Is Water* _____

WATER TO THE BRIM SPILLS EVERYWHERE

Water to the brim
spills everywhere

With barely a whis
per—rippling it flees

With a finger's touch
it's ready to empty itself

As unexpressed desire
held back by ripples of shame

as unfettered youth
ever eager to flow

at any time or place,
brimming water spills

Before flowing
it cannot decide

which way to go
But, once it flows

retreat is out of the question
Freed from its origins

its nature is to embody
the pleasure of flowing

Topping the brim,
it cannot stay

without moving

THE RESTLESS URGE FOR EQUALITY

Before moving water rounds itself
and begins to rise ever so slightly—
discerning where the land slopes before it,
where depths lie,

the world giving it flow, direction, speed
while always water's intention is to fill and swell,

while boundaries create you & me
where between yours & mine obstacles rise—it rebels,

gathering strength it flows,
and wherever it flows
as day follows day obstacles collapse,
boundaries are overcome

In the absence of boundaries and obstacles
we see wider land—where water calmly, naturally, moves on

This struggle reveals to me
that the character of the land is uneven
tempered by the speed of the flow
my innermost desire
is the equality I seek

MUTUAL QUEST

Unless I am
as naked as water,
I cannot sense
its touch throughout
my body

Submerged,
I experience the warmth,
the pressure

Through touch I know
my own heat
given over

What holds me fears
being fire, and
I fear those icy claws

To meet somewhere in between,
that is our mutual quest,
our meeting point

Translations by Wayne Amtzis and the author