4-13-2015

Poorly Drawn Earth

Victoria A. Blaisdell
Gettysburg College, blaivi01@gettysburg.edu
Class of 2017

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Keywords
creative writing, poetry

Author Bio
Victoria Blaisdell is a sophomore economics major and writing minor at Gettysburg College.

This poetry is available in The Mercury: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury/vol2015/iss1/28
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The artist must have desired
to imitate God. *What an egomaniac,*
I think, as I picture him
lifting the blue piece of chalk
in his leathery hands, the piece
he neglects to realize is really called
robin’s egg, and draws an
imperfect circle, more potato than
malleable gaseous matter, and scribbles
some light green landmasses
for recognition’s sake.

This ironic masterpiece is titled
*Poorly drawn earth,* and I wonder
whether the Bible lies when it says
that God saw that it was good.
Perhaps on the seventh day,
God invented erasers or the delete
button, telling everyone He was resting
as He edited creation, becoming
the first artist not fully satisfied
with His work,

whether He regrets the too-calm
greenness of grass, the explosive yellow
of bananas, the variety of skin tones
and the divisive destruction thereby caused.
Maybe God makes up for blue skies
by painting orange and pink sunsets,
stars a way of apologizing for the claustrophobic night.

I do not know if the world is shaped
by its colors, each hue a pair of hands
pressing down upon humanity,
the color palette of eye color
or the divine crayon box for shades of hair. Grass is defined by greenness, but is greenness defined by grass?

No, I think, as I scribble words onto a page, knowing that I will never be defined, not by poetry or familial relations, by education or occupation, by favorite coffeeshop or least favorite food, by past or future or present—I am forever in the process of becoming. There will always be more thoughts than I am able to expel, more life than I am able to breathe into others, more love than I am able to fully demonstrate.

All our lives, really, are just poorly drawn earths, imperfect imitations of the completeness of divinity, ever-shrinking windows into the expanse of eternity, relinquished frustrations at our own inability to articulate.

So we settle, again, for good enough, as the artist did when he called his own work poor, just as God did when He realized that they would never love Him enough, sitting alone amongst all His most magnificent creations.