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Upon Saving a Household Insect

by Jonathan Greenhouse

I've developed the habit of saving stray insects
found in my bathroom sink or on the bedroom floor
or wandering from one corner to another.
So I see a spider hopping across the kitchen's wooden planks
or a beetle crawling by a shower drain
& I grab an empty glass or a magazine subscription

& use these makeshift vehicles of escape
to set their impending freedom into motion,
these captives never knowing
how I took these uncommon steps to ensure their survival,
since, though they're not endangered species,
these wayward specimens' individual lives would be numbered;

yet at times, erring in my rush to liberate these tiny creatures,
I occasionally penetrate a wing or rip off a leg,
sealing their fates in this world governed by natural selection,
my excitement & impatience turned into deadly weapons
when maximum dexterity's required; & sometimes,
too busy to be bothered, I forget their souls might join

the ranks of human beings after successive reincarnations,
& consigning them to oblivion, I quickly stamp my shoe
to focus upon the concerns of my singular existence.