The Practice of Presence

Margaret L. Carter

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We quest for fabled lands
    Atlantis, Numinor,
    Where Elven voices call
    Beyond the hidden door.

We hunt the Unicorn
    In dream-enchanted sleep;
    His head adorns the wall—
    We wake to weep.

All wonder too is dead,
    Or dreamed, or flown away,
    Too far for hands to reach—
    For all that's real is gray.

Yet when our eyes behold
    This moment's living fire,
    Then bread and water show
    The Phoenix rising from
    his pyre.