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What Words Can Do

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What Words Can Do

by Kim Bridgford

The world will take an answer we will not,
Without the reasons, without the rationale:
Such miracles that rise from the garden-pot
In flags of silk. How often have the ill
Taken their wheelchairs into the sudden air
And felt as holy as a cloud? Be blessed
By such small mutterings that are there
Within the earth, like a loamy palimpsest.
Be blessed by life. Our words can only trace
What birds do every day: their lives complete
In chittering. With them are no shame-faced
Pilgrims, no scholars making their retreat
In dusty rooms—just flight. No questioning
Will bring to us what birds know how to sing.



Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

