



3-15-2023

## *Cleave*

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### Recommended Citation

Brostoff, Richard (2023) "*Cleave*," *Westview*: Vol. 37: Iss. 1, Article 11.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol37/iss1/11>

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# CLEAVE

by Richard Brostoff

When God creates the world,  
He does not build it out of nothing,

ex nihilo—nor from clay parts.  
Not from onyx, iron, cedar, stone.

Creation is a great cleaving:  
light from teeming dark,

water from land,

man and woman from the garden.

A life begins in rupture.  
In separation: the beginnings of self.

In severance: the brilliant world.

