The Woman Who Fell From the Sky

after "Birds" by Hannah Claus

1.

Back in the day
before there were days
before we measured sunlight and shadow
around a circle
or glanced quickly at clocks that ticked
or numbers that blinked

way back when

Our world hung
suspended
soft
clouds
blue
as the sky
of wings
light
as the feathers
of waterfowl
ocean
as far as the eye could see

Let’s pause right here

2.

Wouldn’t you know
comes a hole in the sky
and She falls through—
errant pregnant female
clutching the roots
of creation
in her hands—
down and
down
through
the swirling
blue
wings
of the
waterfowl who catch her
ocean everywhere
and slowly lower her
onto the back of the Great Turtle
our living earth
who receives her

3.

Then came the soil, the planting, the birth of a daughter
Then came the randy wind and the granddaughter’s twins
Then came the whole human mess:
corn bean squash sun rivers flowers hills rain
rage storms betrayal justice knives fire murder moon
fish compassion art arrows dancing animals healing wars
harpoons greed envy ships disease stars horses sun
schooling languages gambling robbery oil music bombs gold
kindness ocean books alcohol trees mountains rocks fruits
streams money plastics rockets worship drilling buildings
snow rice seedlings wheat aging burials grass sky

4.

Skywoman,
Grandmother Moon,
how have we forgotten
Great Turtle moves
slowly under us
and may one day die?

Do you ever long
for the moment you slipped
into this world

air
blue
clouds
wings

Nothing
Everything

watery
alive

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