

1986

## The Faithful

Leslie Norback

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## The Faithful

I pull  
    waterproof eyes  
    over my face;  
    fit a curved tube  
    into my mouth  
to become one with the water.

The sun  
    glistens  
    off bodies  
of faithful worshippers.

Water  
    chases my toes  
    upon the velvet sand  
I dive  
    into the swirl  
    and seek  
    a place  
    in the multitude  
        of the water-born,  
where a tropical rainbow  
    of true-believers  
    circled me.  
Flipping their silver tails,  
    they glide past,  
    curious  
    at this pagan  
    intruding upon their  
    water temple.

I drift  
over the coral reef,  
watching, where sun,  
                                  water  
                                  and coral  
create a soft fantasy  
of castles,  
                                  dragons  
and flying horses.  
I know,  
I cannot share  
this beauty  
with those on shore,  
clouding  
the water,  
their oil  
                                  blinds them.

Leslie Norback