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## Element

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# Element

## Element 1

at the dinner party I  
was the sparrow who called  
outside the window come forth  
beloved of sky and dirt briefly  
while the line blurred  
breathing blurs the line

all along the tree  
reaching forth with tree  
hands held element of sky  
as though the dancer  
were the same

and promising  
through its primeval glow  
star and horseshoe  
temple and temple spawn  
wonder and inevitable gaze  
while the squirrel

acorn love pats the earth  
redeem with your palmprints  
redeem from all the fibers  
we are sentient, tendril-stretched  
breathing

## Element 2

with the flower  
she still searches  
casting out beauty  
for a handful of dirt  
kneading light-starved tendrils  
where forbidden hands reach

the book says we learn  
being from the trees  
she replies my beloved  
whispers his heartbeat  
like they do

when the firmament breaks  
with your sadness  
I'll be with you

when time breathes in element  
I'll be with you

when trees fail to reach you  
I'll be with you

awash in starlight higher  
than the dirt waiting for you  
breathing your ether, always  
to the end of the age

### Element 3

to count the strands of time  
passing the tree scraped  
its prophecy rattling  
light-soaked lilac awaits  
breathing cold ether she said  
my beloved dwells there  
shining, warming my skin  
with science-stained limbs  
she is the voice of one  
crying out in the garden  
make straight the element

lying back she inhales  
mystery shifting form  
breath was the medium  
liquid, viscous clouds  
birds gaze down upon her  
hands move aside the grass  
stretching with each exhale

wider than the sky  
closer than the dirt  
widening still

## About Michelle Villanueva

Michelle Villanueva is in her second year of study in the MFA in Creative Writing – Poetry program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She received a J.D. from the University of Wyoming and a M.Div. from Bangor Theological Seminary. She is also in the process of ordination to the Episcopal priesthood. Her poetry has been published in *The Red Rock Review*.