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## Flint and Stone

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## *Flint and Stone*

This small rock spent random centuries rolling  
to the thrust and push of countercurrents  
where sea-going stream met sea-mass moving  
toward the shore.

Then the slow upthrust of the earth  
as it formed the backbone of the Rockies  
exposed the stone, a small ocean egg left  
to hatch on a barren hillside.

Our ancestors are all around me here.  
I feel the distant vibrations  
of the drum and hear the high, clean  
voices of the singers in the wind.

At my feet I find a wedge of flint, a thin,  
sharp-edged flake sheared when a man leaned  
down his careful weight, transmitting it  
to the parent stone through the rounded point  
of a staghorn.

The chip must have hit the ground like thunder  
for the sound of it to roll up the vast silence  
of the arroyos and across the centuries to reach  
my ears, just now.