



On Earth As It Is

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2011

## Hosanna

Rick Hale

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# on earth as it is

*prayer as story, story as prayer*

HOME

ABOUT

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*photo by matthew simmons*

## *Hosanna*

*Rick Hale*

Los Angeles, Michelangelo, Jude, peopling the lost souls, tell me now:  
Do you remember this eye, this hand, these ears, this  
mouth? May I break my solemn invocation with a sneeze?  
Forgive me. No bless yous –

my sinuses are cork-tight. No soul will leak tonight. I have Benadryl, Claritin,  
Zyrtec. The clerics. They'll not deliver me unto  
any Egyptian waters; I haven't yet written my holy litany,  
my radiant magnum dopus. Till this,

too many senses deadened by overwork and Melee. Not enough ticks  
or tocks. But now I've reached a Beginning. Evening  
is here, and I have my two legs, my arms, all the ganglies I need  
to stay a peopled sack of water and bones

for at least another 60 years. The angles, the corners of this mouth of ours, the corners  
of this usiku-blue room, and even the ones of some other room that  
never was or will be, are angels. Laugh not. It's for them I float my holy  
basket among these rushes Here, with the hope that

one day the  
universe will forget  
to contain itself and this  
living wave will mush,  
glow, cease yes, until  
everything is alright  
forever and forever  
and forever,

and I'll be chanting kunywa siku, to drink the day, hearing myself

say it in my head, out loud with my own mouth, and you'll be knowing fluidly  
that it really was alright to think of cell phones as absorbent wonderspeaks,  
not the devils of some chalk-faced globalizer's right-angled intentions. This is Heaven

right Now, I told you in my natural tongue, without  
words, and hulijua huko (you did not understand that) but still you must  
believe me: it's only common magic, the warped light on your  
family picture, the children-only frequency of the televisheni (the television) on mute

today as I offered up my djembe prayer, my taking-a-shit prayer, my  
nightmare prayer, all to make ready for this current one, this unmapped blue current  
of a Hosanna wailed to the floating mind, to the ecstatic descending Dove.  
Why this way? What basket? In Egypt, the symbol for "question" is reeds and water.

Rick Hale has work out or almost out through *Mud Luscious* and *Hotel St. George* presses, as well as a  
chapbook, "Pistachio & Iris," forthcoming from *Greying Ghost Press*. He edits for *Cow Heavy Books*,  
*Twelve Stories*, and *Wonderfort*.

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