



On Earth As It Is

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2011

## Two Poems

Nancy Scott

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# on earth as it is

*prayer as story, story as prayer*

HOME

ABOUT

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*photo by Gwendolyn Joyce Mintz*

## *Two Poems*

*Nancy Scott*

### **LETTER TO GOD**

The glue holding the kitchen chair legs  
is gone; dried in some season  
I didn't see coming or going  
and the windows need washing again.

There's too much dust  
hissing through the air cleaner  
and the ceiling fan rattles  
its chains.

Used to be, I'd wish for just  
so much on one page and,  
if I wrote it down,  
it would happen.

Now, I can't hear roses.  
Carillon hymns don't always keep me sane.  
The hand-carved hearts and stars  
aren't working.

Fur isn't thicker than fear.  
Pizza's only good for an hour  
of possibility that later  
gets deleted.

Perhaps what I need  
to sing in my bones  
and to pray for  
is changing?

All I can write is  
what other poets have already said—  
I want fewer days of drift  
trapped in I wish and what if.

All I can write is send  
checks, love letters,  
good deeds, Devil Dogs,  
a house that's safe,  
a hand to guide me off a welcoming stage.

### **SMART-ASS JACK**

Tilted back in mocking comfort  
on my vinyl-covered kitchen table,  
grinning gaze fixed on the left,  
he waits for me to speak.  
He is not one of my dead.  
He smiles too much  
and still has his own teeth.  
Stem curled, moon patient  
in his peace of frost-free hum.  
I gaze into triangle eyes,  
reach my left hand in the wet mouth  
that has no tongue.  
I am the one  
who must speak to my dead  
through this carver's call.  
Tell them to stop stealing socks and dropping  
bottle tops.  
Tell them to send me better poems.  
Tell them I love their spirits as I did not love  
their earthliness.  
And tell them I know  
I must stay here.

Nancy Scott, Easton PA, is an essayist and poet. Her over-500 bylines have appeared in magazines, literary journals, anthologies and newspapers, and as audio commentaries. Her third chapbook, co-authored with artist Maryann Riker, is entitled "The Nature of Beyond."

<---Next Previous--->