

2nd equal prize, poetry

K2

By MT Taylor

MT Taylor's work has appeared in Northwords Now, The Glasgow Review of Books, The Lake, The Interpreter's House, and other places, and her mountaineering inspirations include Julie Tullis, Dave 'Cubby' Cuthbertson, and Nan Shepherd.



As an older brother, feigning indifference
your thoughts on higher things
you watched me
from the corner of your eye.
I knew you were the pillar
that held the sky.

You made a foothold
on your thigh so I could reach
what was beyond.

You offered comfort when, ledge-cragged
I waited as the gales blew hard
and where unrepentant blood stained
white perfection you mocked
the smallness of it.

Together we shared your quiet throne.
- no question of conquest.
We know each other better than that.

As you hold me on your side
I listen for the sounds of your heart
and understand
there will soon be time for rest.

So I write our story on parchments
of cloud.

Air thin as cotton prayers
where concealed in ice and snow
are roads to Heaven.