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A Preference for Name From a Separate Lair

Fernando Afable

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TWO POEMS by *Fernando Afable**A Preference for Name*

Traces of salt are in the air
Seaward, and the grass grows sparser
In the soil. Now the stars are briny.
There is salt in the air, in the eye.
Landlocked, we think
The air transparent, as sea to fish
Where the refracted light
Shapes the reefs. Their sight
Breaks through the ocean water.

Seaward, to an extreme
Far from our neutral light
That presently is barely seen
We can change names; and gills
Grow in a condition
Where seaweed will suffice for grass.
Yet the elements in the air,
The mortal stance we keep: so loved
We will not risk a change of name
Or think the ocean water clear.

From a Separate Lair

Shout out my name
The only pseudonym
And shout me out
From anonymity.
Unless a friend
Call out, drops
A name, I'm proved
Alone. More of a
Hermit than a man.
I say, a hermit
Walks on the thin
Chance there is
Another, like him.

Nothing of a twin,
Alone to this
Walking state,
Who will not envy
Twins apart who leapt
Alive together? Outrun,
Break, retrieve
The wind's weight
I thrice tried
To strike notice
Worthy of a gesture
Of light, bleaching
The minerals of bone
Whiter as it shines.