Coherent Human Ability

Madison Browne
Coherent Human Ability
by Madison Browne

I wonder why breath can’t be articulated, only felt.
I wonder why indigo isn’t the color of stones in the sun,
And why living is a fact, concept, but we don’t really know
Why things are alive, other than they happen
To be made of the right atoms that
Swirl and stack together into something
That processes glucose and emits carbon dioxide or oxygen,
For that is our greatest function.
This is life.
But is that really a life?

Maybe I’ve been dead for a long time,
But my heart keeps on beating (for this is expected).
Is life a state of mind?
Three of my family members killed themselves.
Everyone denies it.
That’s not what good Christians do.
I like books about fantasy because I’d love to touch fire unscorched.
I wonder why I was made so small in comparison to the stars,
When they say that life is such a miracle.

Once I watched a thirty minute show about volcanoes.
There was Hawaiian music and no voice-over,
because someone finally realized that people talk too much.
I’d like to die in a bed of molten lava.
Isn’t that poetic?
To die in the earth’s blood,
To die of an excess of warmth.

How often do we think about the fact that
Money is only dirty paper, arbitrary numbers?
Politics is showmanship and figures,
Fueled off roadkill.
Look pretty (you’ll win) look at the camera.
Smile big. Now run them over with your eyes.

I’ve never met a person who cares, actually cares,
About one thing other than himself.

I wonder if slugs realize that they are just snails without a home.
But would any of us really know if we were of the lonely species?
I knew a girl once who thought she had a family, but no one even saw her.
They didn’t realize she was a volcano.

I wonder why I’m cold in the summertime,
And why no one even offers to warm my hands.

We all aspire to live long, medicated lives
Contently keeping fires in chimneys,
Without ever experiencing the rain,
Without ever standing in the presence of a tornado,
Holding on desperately to our precious, limited lives,
Wearing football helmets in bathtubs,
Denying the wind burning our own lungs.