THREE POEMS

Ama Birch

Woman Lift Voice

Truths self-evident, all equal, Creator unalienable Life, Liberty, Happiness the Men governed. Form destructive end. Right People alter abolish and institute new foundation principles powers form, effect Safety Happiness. Prudence, light transient experience mankind disposed suffer right abolishing forms long train abuses usurpations, pursuing the Object design Despotism, their right, their duty, throw Government, provide new future children racket kilter. The South the north, talking rights, the fix soon. here? there carriages, ditches, everywhere. Nobody over place! Look! Look! ploughed planted, barns, head! woman? work man bear lash born to slavery cried grief hear! head; call whispers, honey. women rights? cup holds you full? black rights Christ Delivered Ohio May 1851? God a woman! strong world upside down alone, turn it up! asking do it. let you me, Sojourner Lift voice ring, Ring Liberty; rise skies, sound sea. song faith dark full hope Facing sun day begun, march victory won. Stony we trod, Bitter rod, hope beat, weary feet place sighed? tears watered, blood slaughter gloomy white bright star weary silent tears, light, forever path, pray. hearts drunk wine world, forget Shadow be and, stand, True. True.

Working the Clay Potter's Wheel Then All is Darkness and Silence

Floating floating floating in in in in space space space space space space space space. Dead dead dead dead dead dead dead vs. vs. vs. living living living living living living Sound sound sound sound sound sound of of of of hooves hooves hooves. Galloping galloping galloping galloping. Tin tin tin tin tin tin tin soldier soldier soldier. Candle candle candle candle burns burns burns burns bright bright bright bright The wick wick wick wick comes comes comes comes out out of of of their their It it it it it it is is is is is is is is melting melting melting melting melting. It it it it it it is is the the the arm arm arm arm arm arm arm drops drops drops drops drops drops. The wax floor floor floor floor floor floor floor floor floor floor. Only only only only only only only its its remain. Next next next next next to to to to to to to to to the the the the the the feet rope rope rope. There there there there there there there there is all around around around around around around around around around waves waves waves waves waves waves waves bodies bodies bodies bodies bodies screams screams NaCl NaCl NaCl NaCl water water water water H2O H2O H2O H2O H2O H2O in in in in

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Sun portent land appeared up ban name reeds air gloom stilled all ear sense I crime all revealed more dreams brain voice aloud tounge forlorn inane knew me words about soul attend thou himself dead shade eternity void because remains part dread all lo ago died mind fire above world one domain there there loose throat engrossed law not slain grave smiled law lips raised doom lean hand tale curse survive dead name disputed fulfilled sun portent land appeared up ban name reeds air gloom again hands of God.