

Murmuring Motif

The book of *Joshua*, a metaphor
For the things that bring us death,
The migration of butterflies
Conquering dark water
I have been afraid I have
Bathed in a tug-of-war with butterflies
Without forgiveness there is no future
I want to create death from this
Thing which holds me in place,
See the twilight see the butterfly
Before the dark water
I must not idolatryze the past, worship
Its skin as continuous for there is
Always someone refusing to come
To terms with *the darker half*, refusing
To worship its wings while excavating behind the text.

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Lizbeth Keiley is an interfaith chaplain serving the needs of the hospice and health-care communities in Palm Beach County, Florida. She is also a published poet and writer, whose poems have appeared in the *Denver Quarterly*, the *Pacific Review*, *Central Park*, *Fence*, *Verse*, and other journals. A feature about her work in hospice chaplaincy is forthcoming in *Sharing Magazine*, the magazine for the healing ministry of the Order of St. Luke, the Physician.