

SHE IS ASH

If she remembers
she is ash,
she is weightless.

If she remembers she is ash, she is grounded.

If she remembers she is ash, she has enough to give –
enough food, enough comfort, enough joy.

If she remembers she is ash, she doesn't dine with blame.

If she remembers she is ash, she needn't walk beside shame.

If she remembers she is ash, she prays by listening.

If she remembers she is ash, she sings out songs of mercy.

If she remembers she is ash, she grieves with open palms.

She is a beginning, when she remembers she is ash.

She is an end, when she remembers she is ash.

She is both these things at once, when she remembers she is ash.

If she remembers she is ash, she doesn't have to have the last word.

If she remembers she is ash, she passes on the second glass.

If she remembers she is ash, she is you.

If she remembers she is ash, she is me.

She doesn't need a scapegoat, when she remembers she is ash.

If she remembers she is ash, she is held in mother's arms.

If she remembers she is ash, she is a wild horse let loose on some great plain.

As ash she is a bird in flight, a worm, a forgotten stream.

She is all of time. She is never gone. She is a universe expanding.

If she remembers she is ash, she has the neighbors in.

If she remembers she is ash, she laughs at herself.

If she remembers she is ash, she lifts up others.

If she remembers she is ash, she sits down to rests weary feet.

If she remembers she is ash, she trusts the son.

If she remembers she is ash, she stops scrutinizing the mirror.

She does not compare or keep score, when she remembers.

Her sails always catch the wind. A shore is always in sight.

If she remembers she is ash, she turns back to find relief.

If she remembers she is ash, she practices balance while tying her shoes.

She is the spring's blossom when she remembers she is ash.

She is a cold glass of water on the hottest day.

She is both waiting and becoming.

She knows she does not know what can come from ash.

She knows she does not know what can be made with ash.

She is enough,

if she remembers.