

AFTER THE WATER RECEDED

For Edgar Allan Poe

By Stanley A. Galloway

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Stark dells in eerie green,

A glaring, well-defined ravine,

Bare hills, and wispy saplings

Break earth's reconfigured trappings.

Sun, more brilliant than before,

Illuminates the new decor

By ways unnatural

With plants collateral

To what was there before –

Each petal, shoot, and spore

Attuned to sharper light.

Each glimmer of the dew ignites

Across the eye in patterns

Like the rings encircling Saturn

'Til the iris can contract

And make each glistening exact.
Beneath and distant, mountain peaks
Scissor the horizon. Creeks
And waterfalls abound
Across a landscape drowned
And now reborn, renewed,
The same, yet somehow skewed,
Much brighter and more varied
Built on all things buried
By the earth's upheaval
Overthrowing the primeval
Once for all to start again
With virgin woods and plains and glens
Now tentatively occupied
By animals of every hide,
Dotting now expansive skies
(To stretch and watch what underlies)
Or leafing tree or underground
By twos and sevens to abound
And fill the earth by kind

Genetically designed
For adaptation to a new
Environment in lieu
Of where they lived a year
Before, before the earth ungeared
Itself in cataclysmic bedlam
Crowned by one prismatic emblem
Leading now to butterflies
And jays, who test the skies,
Released and conscious, strange,
Benignly puzzled by the change –
And every figure on the earth
Like Adam, grown, at this new birth.

REBEKAH

Rebekah, Rebekah, the name on my tongue feels
exotic, yet somehow familiar, as sung by
the angels, divinely created and given
like Eve as a perfect completion, a living

reminder of grace in a dying terrain. In
the light of my mother's blue lamp I restrain my
own urges to wonder at beauty uniquely
embodied, no foot like your foot as it peeks at
me, wiggling its toes in nonverbal hellos, and
the veil dropped demurely revealing a nose and
its ring and a chin at the base of the groove of
her lips: such a comfort, oh mother, to prove love.

JAGGED BEACH

saltfilm wind

streaking surf

north by northeast

sandsoft path

palmfrond umbrella

south by southeast

silky sweat

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summer sun

south by southwest

gullskree song

sunset widestreaked

north by northwest

Bio:

Stan Galloway teaches English at Bridgewater College in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. He was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2013 and Best of the Net in 2011 and 2012. His collection *Just Married* (Unbound Content, 2013) focuses on early relationship lessons from the point of view of a new groom. His chapbook *Abraham* (Sierra Delta Press, 2012) looks at the life of the biblical Abra(ha)m and the perplexities of his experience. *A Bird's Life* (Books on Blog, 2012) gathers poetic observations about, and sometimes from the point of view of, various feathered creatures. He has had more than 100 other poems published (in such places as *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Contemporary World Literature*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Red Booth Review*, and *vox poetica*) and has also written a book of literary criticism, *The Teenage Tarzan* (McFarland, 2010). He has been featured at the *Niagara Literary Arts Festival* (St. Catherine's, ON) and the *Turner Cassity Literary Festival* (Douglasville, GA). He has a determined interest in the production and influence of poetry around the globe. (Trim as necessary, or ask for a specific word length for me to revise to fit.)