



Still Life

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Today the floodgates opened
spilling streams once kept at bay
somehow I knew
that I was not immune
still human

Today the paper said
they made an AIDS vaccine
and the UN asked Iraq
to smash their war machines
then I thought of lives that could be saved
and how fast they can be taken away

Wishing I could remain indifferent
to all of this

Numb
for just a minute
I tried to deny the flood
like those who laughed at Noah
and I remember
as a kid
when it rained
we would say that God was crying



and when lightning crashed
we'd say the angels bowled a strike

If I only had a myth
to explain why death took him

But I've never started a poem
that I can't finish
and I'll be writing
till the day I die

Today I cried
for the first time and years
and You might laugh
because he was not my father
or my cousin
or my brother
but he loved me
in a way that humans never could

And when the flood gates
spilling stream once kept at bay
somehow I knew
that I was still alive