Poetry 111

The Stars Saw God

Chris A. Peck

I found God huddled in my father's insanity. There beneath the layers of confusion—as to why none of us saw the spinning ball or the parade outside—I saw his vacant expression shine out like God-rays through the clouds. Clarity in absolutes. And so, when he came down the steps, pillow in hand, and asked me where his pillow was, I wept because he was lost in the confusion of God.

I felt God as my mother
put her hands on my diseased stomach
speaking aloud as I cried.
And called out like Job of old,
"Who are we to you?"
And with no response, no reward,
I felt I knew God that day better than
all the other years.

I saw God in the way the stars peeked through the bare branches in the winter sky. Pleiades shouted down to me of their distance and age and still their nothingness. And as the sanity of stars—that post-nebula order—finished speaking, they asked of me (of God)

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the Earth?"