

All the taking and some of the giving

I've had enough of
broken promises and those cracked
along the sides like splintered windshields.
Glass is too slight to hold.
When all feelings are allowed to fade
into a vague pastel background
without boundaries,
then lines don't matter at all.
It's all loose syllables.
Anything broken is only worth the parts.

Give me
a pattern of words with the strength
of a pine bough brushed with forest paint.
I want to hear your invitation
as clear as a slice of morning light
that dawns with drama.
You can shout feelings like a grand master
or whisper them through tight fingers,
but they remain firm.
Promises are meant to be kept.

I've had enough of
people boring me like burned-out candles
melting in place.
When the light fades, only smoke is left.
I act out a scenario of listening
to endless stories of egos stretched
to the end of the dinner table.
Even the brightest paint can be parched
by the dry hollow of a voice
pointed at its owner.

Give me
the sharp staccato of people
coursing through in running shoes
who talk of their discoveries.
Brilliant sparks of light fall from eyes
and pens eager to explore the limits
of boundaries set by others.
Throwing ideas into the middle of the room
always tests the gravity of the moment.
I can share imagination with them.

I've had enough of
earthy writers extolling the common rituals
of dishwashers and parades and wars.
We shake the dust of working countries
from our collars every day.
It doesn't need to be inked on dry pages
like leftovers begging for praise.
Nature worries itself beside our concerns
along with all gardens promising stems.
Earth contains its own rhythms.

Give me
symphonies and sonnets pulsing into dreams
stretching above my fingertips
like the rhyme of fresh moonlight.
I want to footprint words over cautious clouds.
I want to touch poetry before dawn touches me.
All images moving beyond the dirt
of a stolid existence are spears into forever.
So I will listen to humanity with all its creases
and wisp that spirit into line after line.