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sacred science

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sacred science

Abby Smoker (Psychology 2023)

health my measuring stick
 whatever is honest, whatever is joyful.
 whatever is real, whatever sustains—
 God is holy (God is healthy).
 i wander through thickets of statistics
 pricked by You each way i turn:
 belief in You as benevolent
 makes us value rehabilitation for other humans;
 belief in You as authoritarian
 makes us want to make them pay.
 if we know we are forgiven by You
 we are more likely to forgive ourselves
 and others, and breathe easy, and live long.

we can't see anything and our measuring sticks only extend
 as high as our hands can reach
 still
 could you tell us
 what is beautiful for your Creation?
 someone said
 we cannot trust our fickle fleshly human hearts
 but plainly You do not intend
 for us to live bound in anxiety
 thrashing or listless in straitjackets from Your name brand
 and paranoid around every joy.
 where, o Lord, is the border
 between paranoia and vigilance? between
 godly mercy and naïveté?
 how to love how to love how to love how to love
 how to identify which words are Yours
 when even Your Word emerges
 from a field of dissonance.