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## Solitude

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# Solitude

*Evelyn Kelly (English 2026)*

It is time to stop living like this is an interlude  
in some masterpiece—just a few pages to skim—  
momentary instrumental bars to endure  
before the harmonizing begins.

Does the bird outside my window stop singing  
or tuck her voice in a small cabinet drawer  
in the corner of her nest when I stop listening?

Does the baby's breath stop breathing  
when hands stop groping her bed  
for a fistful of virgin buds to tear away  
only so she may wither in a pretty vase  
under an occasional gaze?

Who am I when it is me  
and the grass and the sky and  
the soil, the rocks, the drowsy river bed  
and the violent thunderstorms  
while I lay awake, sweating  
between thin sheets, alone?

Why should I stop delighting  
when it is me and God  
in this specific pocket of the universe, again?

There's worlds and more microscopic worlds  
in my breath alone.

