

## Change and Receipt

RENEÉ OSBORNE

in a dream that occurred yesterday evening  
the sexiest quality  
to being human in life was being  
faithful but this kind of commitment  
often fails and bends to breach

on Emerson: losing a child changes  
the degree of spirit like Job like me  
if I'm lucky I'll at least be a sincere memory

blacks first learned of religion from  
the master not the Master but really . . . where is God  
where was God  
that omnipotent creature who  
through stories or scriptures  
evolved bipedal to speaking-burning bush  
to omnipotent voiceover but  
not before showing up in dreams

or maybe he is still hiding in the colors  
of flowers and sand and shifting winds maybe  
he is embarrassed but proud of our  
destruction and creation  
surely the oaks the pines the beeches and silver thatches  
speak his language but they too must bend to  
breach they too will snap and curdle like Emerson  
and me  
and Job  
or like something close to all those people with frozen beliefs who  
stand not by God so much as their flag  
for this phase too will become common and needy

grief God and flag

if I'm lucky  
I'll at least be a real memory  
if God is lucky  
we will catch him on camera  
next time

[Reneé Osborne was born and raised in Fort Worth, TX, where she resides today. She received a BA in Literature from the University of California, Davis and won Honorable Mention in the

2001 Diana Bogart Contest for Short Fiction and third place in the 2001 Ina Coolbrith poetry contest. Her poem “Crevices Make” was published in *Seele*. Currently, she is completing her first manuscript and applying to graduate MFA programs.]