

My Mentor
A poem for two voices

Donald Shephard

Mentor

Me

Life-
 giving sunrays
Soughing treetop winds
Earth-scents after rain
Melted snow showers
Thundering wave curls
From pole to equator
From equator to pole

Life
Enrich my eyes
Encourage my ears
Excite my nose
Hydrate my throat
Provide my rhythm

All life-forms from Blue Whale
To coliform bacteria
From liverwort to orchid

My mentor lives everywhere
She employs equally

Monolith dune glacier
Steppe desert and fen

With grace she encompasses

Without distorting words
No dictionary defined message

My mentor speaks tornadoes

Earthquake volcano tsunami

She balances each force

Longevity obeys all my laws

No myth warps her strong advice
Favors and fortunes ride with her

My one warranty -
Death

Of which we know but few
Inscrutable Mother Nature

Death