

Horizons

I had been sitting daily
on the rocks
for many many years
trying to see what should
or might
surmount encircling horizons

My horizon seemed so far away
because I sat in such a lofty spot.

From here
one ought to see forever.
But that
my horizon
cannot be.

Unreachably far
but unmistakably definitive.

I waited
and
nothing came.
My horizon never moved.

When I climbed down
from that rock
it seemed much closer
but it was not.

And I knew that
if I went in its direction
it would recede forever.

So my only hope
was to wait
for it to come
to me.

At other times
I sat by the lake.

I looked out across the water
the textures on its surface.
Pine hills beyond the lake
rose dark green in fading light.
Tiny splashes tumbled up
the rock-strewn edges of my island.
Up my personal horizon.
Small rocks, small ripples, small sounds.

Sometimes I could see
small fish
swim in greenish shadows
near the dock.

Sometimes a great grey
lanky water-spider
big as a child's hand
stood on a post
near the water
waiting for lunch.

Sometimes in the tangled nest
atop the larch tip
of a nearby island
an osprey cried
and dove into the air
patrolling its domain
seeking lunch.

Mostly
wind hissed quietly
in my pine tree canopy
ripples lapped
at the island's edge
the lake
all surface
gleamed and glistened
echoing the sky.

Late one summer
a comet
poised itself
between low mountains
on the North horizon.
Every aspect
emphasizing motion
arching, swooping, blazing
yet it never moved.
It rose and set like the sun
and gradually
in some days
it sank its last
beyond horizon.

I could wait forever
but that will never do.
Forever never comes,
and doing's never done.

The solace that I seek
is not found in sight or seeking.
The conclusions that I reach
are not found in thought or speaking.

The nuggets that emerge
from the high rocks
and the long flat lake
are nearer than behind me.
Already beyond horizons
of the brightest night
of the darkest day

they repeat the songs
of small fishes
swimming in green shadows.

They repeat the songs
of ospreys
coasting in the sky.