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Katrina's Outrage

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by Kimberly Satterfield

1.

Katrina wrestled the with the wind,
her boy child,
wild from the unbearable heat
burning the heavens.
He escaped from her grasp,
crashing
like a slap across the city of New Orleans .

2.

After Katrina tamed her boy
her eyes screamed.
She wailed the sea from her mouth
when she saw that her girl child,
the earth was dying,
New Orleans drowned in the storm of her tears.

3.

For greed and foolishness
the pale men stood silent,
hung their fear like a noose
around the necks
of the not-yet-dead,
deaf to the hundreds -
the thousands of voices
crying out in the night for help.

4.

The elders,
the mothers with babies waited for the boats
as the water rose from their ankles to their necks -
the boats never came.

5.

After Katrina,
surprised a nation that has lost its breath
she plunged her raw, uncompromising power
into the hearts of the women while they wept
into to the breasts of men who understood
that they must offer as oblations to the sacrifice;

the hundreds and thousands of bodies
that cover the floor of New Orleans with bony blankets

and to the survivors
waiting for Katrina to come again
with a different name
to avenge them.