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By B i l l S i m m o n s

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...Bill Simmons style and concepts in, "After the Void" are each engaging and erudite. He is short and sweet and in under a hundred words, journals us on a journey from the being of time until now: "One part to sea, one to land. / After eons and myriad divisions / It still kept dividing;" Take yourself along for his ride....*

"After The Void"

Sometime after the void

The first protoplasmic blob

Beached and divided itself

Like an amoeba,

One part to sea, one to land.

After eons and myriad divisions

It still kept dividing;

The world was full

Of these protoplasmic jells;
All beaches oozed of them.
Then came the big wave,
Washed the shores clean.
Only the smart survived,
Went to higher rocks,
Quit dividing, started multiplying,
Became intricate, sophisticated,
Began to crawl, some to walk,
Some flew, others put down roots.
Thus flora and fauna,
The protoplasm DNA'd itself
Into higher states.
And here we are.

THE POET SPEAKS: *On this poem, "After the Void," I was theoried out, tired of reading and listening to theories; therefore, I created my own absurdity.*

On style my influences are Peter Everwine, C. G. Hanzlicek, Philip Levine. Always close at hand are John Keats, William Blake, Robert Frost, Po Chu I, Basho, Issa, Buson..... This list could fill the page. I am a debtor.

I have been writing, reciting poetry ever since I knew myself. There were periods when I didn't write, but poems were always in my mind. Poetry for me is a way of life, the way I interpret life. It is of most importance to me to be writing, reading and teaching poetry.

AUTHOR BIO: Bill Simmons, Fresno State B.A. English/Philosophy. Mentors: Peter Everwine, C,G, Hanzlicek and Philip Levine. Live and Write in Carroll, Iowa.