

Began

The world began
with the bold pen-line

ragged and flowing
in all variations from spiral

to cradle

In course of time
it becomes like a friend's handwriting

personal and inseparable
from an olive branch

ABOUT THE POEM

“Began” was created from *Line & Form* by Walter Crane (1900). About the poem and the process of composing it, Pamela Hobart Carter writes:

This erasure comes from Chapter II of *Line & Form*. I wanted to make a poem that altered the meanings of the same words in the text, that used them metaphorically, or surrealistically. This is a straight erasure, as in, the words are in the order in which I came across them—although here and there I lop off a word’s ending (as with “raggedness”) or add an ending so that verb tenses and such work, but only ever using the letters in the same order that they appear in the text.



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