



POETRY

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Borders

Dvora Levin



Photo credit: the poet.

Poet's Introduction

This previously unpublished poem emerged after meeting a scholar of border studies at breakfast in the spring of 2023. I was amazed that so many academic careers could be defined by one word: Borders. I began to list all the borders and non-borders that came to mind and found I had written this list poem, embracing many of my own experiences.

About the Poet

Dvora Levin served as a systems' change agent both in B.C. Canada and in Israel. She has published six collections of her own poetry and edited two poetry collections written by the homeless, sex workers, and addicts in recovery. For several years, she led poetry writing sessions with men on parole. She now makes her home by the ocean in Victoria, B.C.

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BORDERS

The so-called United States are inked
in opposing reds and blues, bordered
by sharp, straight lines.

First Nations once had undulating borders,
until they were forced into
stamp-sized reserves.

Israelis push their borders into
Palestinian homes, orchards,
proclaiming God given lands.

Borders marked by cement block walls,
both tempting and dangerous,
invite infiltration.

Honey bees, racoons, bears,
all wild things, know only those borders
they intuit to survive.

The Kurdish people know
too many borders, struggle
to have a border of their own.

Médecins Sans Frontière doctors
offer their care without bordering
as other non-profit caregivers do.

The ocean has borders of sand and rock,
while fish and other ocean creatures
live unbordered lives.



Rivers have borders imperceptibly shifting
over time, while swift moving hurricanes,
tornadoes race about unconstrained.

Forest fires have no borders
until we desperately try
to safely border them.

Dawn and dust have pixelated borders,
as light appears and disappears
on our twirling ball.

Galaxies have frayed borders, yet
the universe is boundless as
it races outwards, forever expanding.

Our minds are bordered by ignorance,
preconceptions, biases, although we dream
of porous consciousness infused with light.

Romantic love is always bordered despite vows
of unity, even soulmates divide into two
by our inescapable unique oneness.

Until the moment we are forever enfolded
into the vast flow of unbordered
Ineffable Energy.