

# The Messenger

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## Before the Beginning

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# Before the Beginning

Adam Palumbo

Before workflow, before the beginning,  
Silence had already been beaten into the shadows,

themselves destroyed  
by the metronomic utterances of the burning day.

Chaos came before, like the Greeks  
guessed, in an undigested mass.

But Chaos, after all, is more than nothing  
and from its confusion (somehow)

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our benign sphere became a weighty thing,  
fed by nothing but its own sinuosity, possibly.

The sea and the shore struck  
their first and interminable war.

Mountains rose from the tangled heaps of earth,  
wondrous guardians of their happy corms

of ore and their first sproutling garments.  
The sea, more expansive and mysterious—

no myth could yet explain how its depth  
plunged like unimagined chords.

Streams descended endless to it,  
still young and flush in their beds.

And somewhere, a garden.