

The Messenger

Volume 2011
Issue 1 *The Messenger*, 2011

Article 61

2011

Birth

Carter Staub

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Staub, Carter (2011) "Birth," *The Messenger*: Vol. 2011: Iss. 1, Article 61.

Available at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/messenger/vol2011/iss1/61>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Messenger* by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.

Birth

By Carter Staub

1.

Come to me, said the God
and she gave him all of her.
He erased her personality, her power,
the innocence.

In return, Aphrodite was born.
And before Dione could even smile onto
the newborn Goddess,
the child had won her mother's love—

and dismissed her.

How can I give myself so willingly?
She must have thought—
had to have thought.
She gave herself over and over
and yet she felt nothing now. Then:

What do I need to feel?

2.

My father must have known this when he
took my mother as his own.
He understood that she would forget herself,
that we would never know her.

Even I was unaware
of what he had done
until I looked into my child's eyes,
until I watched myself
empty into
my son.

3.

Aphrodite needed only to exist
for Dione to take her own soul and willingly

free it:
discard it for another soul—
another light.

For when she saw her daughter,
when she held the light—
her light—
Dione was forgotten.

