

# The Messenger

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## virus

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**virus // Liana Saleh**

they gave us a roof above our heads  
made of twigs and protons, one we  
could reach up and touch with our  
fingertips, pluck bouquets of  
phosphates to drops into the plastic  
cup by the weeping willow at the  
train station. They gave us drinking  
wells made from bricks and galaxies,  
where we'd reel up buckets of planets  
with red rugged hands and centrifuge  
the starry water from between them.  
they twined laser beams into our split  
end hair and daisies into our dna and  
we were thankful on rug-burned  
knees until the sky spilled zwitterions  
and we remembered where they came  
from.