



Doug Bolling

## Delimitation

World. Our measurements.  
Tools pointing into it  
falling short.

Distance as wall. As a  
permitting.  
To break through.  
To find in dream.  
A wrapping around,  
a lure,  
a denial.

If a consonance had been  
built in.  
A coming together.  
Whispers across the  
Kantian divide.

Then a claiming, a deployment.  
Coleridge. A translucency,  
a healing.  
Word become savior,  
a flaming grounded  
in wick,  
a soaring.

But world. Obduracy.  
Stone impervious.  
Our mortality.  
A humbling.

Yet still to approach.  
To make poems.  
A poetry of difference.  
A centripety.  
A breadthwise cutting.  
A trajectory bent backward,  
somewhat downward.

Poems of rain, of red  
wheelbarrows.  
Comfortings of dry pages,  
the small, necessary  
triumph.

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Doug Bolling's work has appeared in *Slant*, *Chiron Review*, *Pebble Lake Review*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Mobius*, *Score*, *Blackbird*, and elsewhere.