

## **Ocean Preservation**

Somewhere around the seaside,  
a boy is opening up his windowpane.  
Peeping to see how much plastic  
the ocean can swallow before it chokes  
on them. In another backdrop, a boy  
is ignoring all the videos on Twitter  
about ocean pollution like leprosy.  
& this is how we march into a battle  
we are pretty sure we will never win.  
Us, against nature. Whatever named  
us Avatar must have forgotten to say  
there's no waterbending without water.  
But my people are ignorant. We raise  
our hands high towards the sky like Babel  
but hope our salvation will not be a work  
left in progress. As if when these hands  
emptied plastic bottles into the ocean,  
we didn't know it was only a matter of time  
before the ocean comes back to empty us too.  
The night after the first tsunami struck,  
my people are begging God for forgiveness  
again. I told them we are our own gods.  
Our miracles lie within our palms like a tragedy  
waiting to happen. First testament: conserve  
water. Second testament: reduce pollutants.  
Third testament: reduce waste. We never  
needed a miracle to damage the ocean's health,  
Why do we need one to preserve it?

