

Teen Poetry 1st Place

Jude Longmire

Next Seasons Bloom

The sun's light bend from the horizon and the Earth's curvature
It bends like how the Skagit river bends
It bends like how the rain bends as it falls unto the tulip fields
It falls unto the tulip field onto the bend of the sprouts

The sprouts that will grow into thick stalks of Tulips
And the bending wrists attached to the hands that pluck them
The seed filled yellow bellies of the tulips
Hidden like Kangaroo Joey's in their petal pouches

And the callused hands that will cut the stalks
And toss their green bodies into large containers
To be shipped off to grocery stores in plastic wraps
To some small sleepy town in Ohio, or a bedroom city by Chicago

The heavy rain beats down on the roof of the home
Of the owners of those callused hands, in that home
Are sizzling skillets and the bubbling laughter of their children
And their bubbling aspirations and unwritten fates

The Cascade mountains rise over the roof of the home
As they do over everything within the county lines
And the seeds in the yellow bellies of those tulips
Will soon find a place rising along with those peaks

And when time imbues itself, as it always does
The children will rise against the mountains as well
They will grow big and deep as the inlets and nooks
Along the coast of this valley in which they found a home

With the flowers, with the mountains, and the sea birds
With the rivers, and the creeks, and the raindrops
With the sands of time falling slowly through the hourglass
With the tulip fields and white tailed deer

Every thing will rise and fall, like the flowers from the seeds
And the children in the schoolyard at Washington elementary as the seeds

And the babies just born at the Skagit Valley hospital maternity ward also as the seeds
Will rise into something, like Tulips, in fates written by those we are unaware

Each doctor, and the doctors after they helped deliver this morning
Each teacher teaching the teachers of their future grandchildren
Serves as the planter of the seeds that will grow into stalks
Planting the next seasons bloom of the Skagit valley