

'Til Dusk Takes Us

Ashtin Roy

some say
I'm crazy
for caring

that landslides
and ocean tides
bury themselves
so we don't have to

they forget the sun rises
the way it falls
that the tide hides
until it's full,
then spills back into the sea

they forget temperatures rise
the way they fall
that these problems don't die,
they fill us

with contemplation
aggravation;
this degradation
is illumination

the sea cries and we know
it's not crying for itself
it cries for us
bitter and barren as others before us

it
feels
our pain,
the ocean says:
"my rivers ran for you
my children died for you
I'm tired and I tried for you
but you've cut into my womb
and stolen the air from my lungs
and if that's still not enough,
tell me what I've done?
did I not love
as mothers
must?"

now everything we loved is lost
and it's because of us
despite the game of loathe or love
the sea will watch the world 'til dusk,

and the ocean cries for us