

HOLY CROSS POETRY WALK

18. First greenspace to The Jo



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THE SHADES OF YOUR LIFE

still, the sun graciously nurtures the frail earth
lips cracked, she allows me to drink from you
unconditionally she warms us, never asking our worth

we have not returned the favor to you, our place of birth
endlessly we hurt you, indifferent to keeping your waters blue
still, the sun graciously nurtures the frail earth

long has it been since you shook with mirth
in defiance of our mishandling, your ardor comes through
unconditionally she warms us, never asking our worth

though we know there is no chance of rebirth
as you fight for triumph, to once again be new
still, the sun graciously nurtures the frail earth

I mourn what we have done, lusting for profit and paining you thenceforth
the shades of your life no longer have their vibrant hue
unconditionally she warms us, never asking our worth

you must be exhausted, being our unwilling hearth
having the mold of humanity grow in you, like mildew
still, the sun graciously nurtures the frail earth
unconditionally she warms us, never asking our worth

- Aldona Casey