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## Altar

Nikki Ummel

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**Altar  
by Nikki Ummel**

We are both  
mortar and pestle:  
we grind our bones down  
for creation,

bury our  
dust deep, seeds  
we water with mouths  
of yes.

We  
breathe deep, roots  
we grow with lips  
of oh.

We make  
ourselves anew,  
wash each other's bodies

in frankincense  
and myrrh, adorn  
each other's arms  
in bracelets of gold.

We spread palms  
across the floor, and prepare  
to embrace god  
who comes when he is called.