



ANTHROPOCENE REVERSED ABECEDARIAN

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Zealots scissor a colossal fire as phoenix specters
yoked by notions of grandeur, Molotovs bleeding

xanthin red, rage with impotence. Pathological
whiteness sparks delirious bastions to declare

victory over settler rites as scores of children remain
unclaimed, snatched by ICE from their parents' arms

then caged at the border despite pleas for asylum.
Seized or trafficked while the powers that be

regale in tomfoolery—how is this business as usual?
Quarantined pods haven't made us any wiser; the

pilfering never ends. Whether of body, mind, soul,
or nature—we take more than we give. Even as

numbers of deaths rise from the global pandemic,
mask-wearing, for some, invades personal freedom.

Law and order only aim to protect brick and mortar;
keep the peace silences righteous dissent. So-called

justice afforded to the rich and famous, but what
is the actual price—an eye for an eye? Dog eat dog?

Heaven forbid we treat others as equals. Here today
gone tomorrow, we hoard toilet paper like forever

friends. Will we ever get our priorities straight? The Earth won't accommodate our shit for much longer.

Dear humans, can we please stop the killing? Instead covet impermanence like movements of a river:

bending, converging into pools and eddies so deep anything is possible, even the chance to flourish.

Su Hwang is a poet, activist, and the author of *Bodega* with Milkweed Editions which received the 2020 Minnesota Book Award in poetry. Born in Seoul, Korea, she was raised in New York then called the Bay Area home before transplanting to the Midwest. A recipient of the inaugural Jerome Hill Fellowship in Literature, she teaches creative writing with the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop and is the cofounder, with poet Sun Yung Shin, of Poetry Asylum. Su currently lives in Minneapolis.