

The Creation of a Hearth

by Tom Holmes

Begin by recruiting two cool firestones
from your grandmother's hearth.
Set one cornerstone here for her past,
and the other there for her tomorrows.

When the sun is prominent,
find yourself to a mountain's peak.
On your descent,
obtain the warmest rocks
from under the hooves of rams—
remember the shape of their toes.

You'll have the model
to arrange the rocks
from before and beyond
and make walls on the angled form.

When piled high as your knee,
fix a reindeer antler
to the corner of now.
As the hearth hardens,
pack mud into the cracks
and wait for fire.