

## We Are The Water

In the beginning  
We were the dew-  
rare, and infinitely precious  
swallowed by the Earth and again dripping from her,  
rising in cumulus clouds  
to blot out the sun.

Soon, we were the air--  
that weak and devastating  
ever-blowing breath.  
'Where we go the land shall be afraid'  
for we the people  
leave none unscathed.

Now, we are the poison--  
that brackens the sea and fouls the water.  
We seep out of pipes like serpents, hoping to lay our claim.  
They say there is too much here  
—too little there--  
an imbalance in the tides.

But our hopes do not lie with the fishes,  
for we are the water:  
the power of the sea that strides,  
the glaciers that grind,  
and the shimmer of red in a rainbow.

We are the water--  
the people ever-changing,  
This is our story.

- Isabelle Decher