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## Finding the Crack in Seattle

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**OLIVER**

What a lovely Autumn night in Denver  
 Mary Oliver reads her newest terns and herons,  
 seems to prefer the most common among them—  
 dipper-words  
 that dip their bills so easily  
 you and I might be stepping the same stream among them.

**FINDING THE CRACK IN SEATTLE**

Start on the slope that pitches to the harbor  
 on the sound side.

Stigmata hand grips the rim  
 of a gutter rainwater cistern:  
 "give me your grey water skies."

Answers back the singing drops,  
 "we will not disappear into your storm sewers,  
 let us glorify your urban mourning."

Just a narrow space between  
 the sidewalk and the street,  
     a series of sloping planted steps,  
     spouts and ponds unbound  
 from walking or driving on  
     routed through a down gradient  
                     botanical garden.

Rebound ground under topographies,  
 watersheds are where you find them—  
 and leave them alone—  
 or recreate them.

Inca, Andean fountains six centuries ago.  
 Buster Simpson's stone and water art  
 here in the Pacific Northwest.  
 Heartbeats in vacant lots.