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## **IN TOKYO AFTER A MISCARRIAGE**

by **Katie Wade-Neser**

When I hear you are not coming  
I lay on your deep carpet.  
There are elephants on your wall  
and they say *Get up!*  
*There is work to do! Babies*  
*are rocket ships stumbling their way*  
*back to the world!*

I look for you here in Japan.  
I have cut my hair  
and I cannot cry about it.  
I try and make myself into sushi.  
I run cool water over my head.  
My toes jump like a long-tailed shrimp  
twitching for the plate.  
If I were your ghost I would roll  
yen in the street.

I look for you in Space.  
My hair has not  
grown since yesterday  
and the elephants are less  
sympathetic.  
I try and teach you supernovas  
and carbon fusion

but you have seen Space  
and you do not like it.

These are my questions:

Are you an elephant.

Are you a rocket ship.

Are you in Asia.

Are you as scared as I am.

Are you the ghost of a white dwarf.

Billow outward then fall into darkness.