

## Ashok Smith

### The Early Days of Blood and Water

In the days of voice  
Blood bit his tongue.

In the days of silence  
Blood gave vent.

In the days of light  
Blood covered in bone.

In the days of love  
Blood rushed in.

In the days of music  
Blood danced.

In the days of darkness  
Blood lost his way.

In the days of depth  
Water rose.

In the days of shores  
Blood stumbled to higher ground.

In the days that followed,  
Water lapped, waiting for wind.

## **Callow Blood, Callous Water**

Blood rushes in  
to greet water:

“Are you my brother?  
Where is your salt?”

Water hurries by  
close but heedless.

Blood reddens.  
“Come back memories!”

“I did not mean to leave you there:  
Did I leave you?”

Or did you leave me?  
I can't remember.”

Blood's embarrassed,  
gawping at skin's door

at the callousness of Water -  
“even stone hates you!”

Stone's eroded head shakes,  
drips free themselves, and fall.

## **Lessons of Water**

Blood boiled.  
Water rose above.

Blood rushed.  
Water showed the way.

Blood drained.  
Water left him to it.

Blood pooled.  
Water gave a level.

Blood stained.  
Water washed away.

## **Buckets Of Blood**

Blood frowns:  
“Water you’re loud.”

Water chuckles,  
copiously filling silence.

Blood reasons:  
“silence is silent.”

Water shrugs,  
“buckets is buckets.”

Blood winces,  
“noise is noise.”

## **Blood Cries Unheeded**

Blood called on water  
Water sloped off

Blood rallied tears  
Water cried off

Blood roared “insult!”  
Water chuckled:

“it’s all downhill from here!”  
Blood shuddered.

## **Blood Is Thicker**

Blood said thickly

“Water, you're thinner than me.”

Water chuckled

“Blood you clot!”

“I'm also deeper.”

Blood ran cold

Blood ran away.

## **Blood Brothers**

Blood met wine  
“At last! My brother, join me!”  
Blood and wine walked around together  
Arms over shoulders.

"Who wants to be in *our* gang?" They sang.  
Sun came by and joined them.

Water crossed their path, silver.  
“Don’t cross me, water!”  
Sun blazed.

Blood was spurred by wine and sun.  
“Yeah! Don’t cross us, water!”

Water retreated.  
Water waited.

When night came on  
Sun slunk off in a pool of red.  
Wine fell asleep in a pool of tears.

Blood alone stood unsteadily  
Railing drunkenly at moon  
As she rose slowly from her table,  
Drawing water up  
Behind her.

## **Water Shows His True Colours**

Blood was roving,  
He was fuming  
With water.

“Water you look off colour!  
Ha ha!” Blood grinned  
At his joke.

Water ran over golden stones  
Water reflected sky's blue  
Water fell and split into light  
Water darkened the well.

Blood skulked off,  
Sulking.

## **Blood's Champion**

Love threw open the door  
And stood on the threshold.  
Blood rose to greet him  
Flushed with anticipation.

Stone and water did not look up  
But continued their game.

Love was dismayed.  
Blood rallied, spluttering  
"Gentlemen, look  
Here is love!"

Stone and water did not look up  
But continued their game.

Blood took love's arm  
And drew him forward to the table.

"Hey you oafs! Here is love,  
He conquers all!"  
Blood said with a flourish.

"Well done love," murmured water,  
Concentrating on his game.

"But," blood blustered, "didn't you hear me?  
Love conquers all!"

Water looked up  
His eyes like pools

"And after love has conquered all  
Who will be left to love?"  
"I will love myself!" said love.

Stone settled further in his chair  
"No doubt you will,  
No doubt you will."