

black, storm, and lavender

across dove-black sky the lightning strikes
first in the southeast,
 then in the south as electricity
 ripples
 back, echoing toward
 the plateau

jagged white needles
 pierce the night
with arborescent spires
 crystalline reach

on the evening
 the air became saturated
 with the colors
 of the distant sea
 green and gray

walls of storm
resembling oceans
throwing birds like hail
that fall to bounce

on once warm ground
once lavender afternoon