

The Spaces Between the Words of Prayerful Singing

Old Pond
Frog jumps
Splash of water

Furu ike ya
kawazu tobikomu
mizu no oto

*Matsuo Basho, 17th Century Japan
(Edo Period)*

Fluttering moth,
Living in my mouth, seeking
And bumping into light

Your singed wings bleed,
Spilling Grandmother's hymnal
All over the floor

With chant,
Helium,
Merged, arrested –

Standing in burning flesh, melting
Like buttered lotus blossoms
Sinking into Basho's pond –

Where it meets the River Jordon
Where it meets the Holy Ganges
Where it meets the Grand Canyon's

Soft current 'neath the torrent:
All washing away
This, our moth-winged dam