

Benediction for a Beach Dweller

May waves break in tides of sunlight at your feet,
may cedar dance its green scarves around you

May a polished beach pebble banish your worries
and a driftwood staff steady your walk

May the sun glint off your chimney cap
and the wind twirl it like a top

May sandpipers rise like ashes from your beach fire
and the tides beat inside you like a drum

May the crow cawing from the top of the crooked pine
make you set aside suffering

May the tiny pink bells of huckleberry and salal
ring Easter tidings throughout your town

May rain never keep you in your solitary cell,
may you spring forth from your door like a doe

May a tangerine sunset ignite your window
forever and evermore

Phyllis Mannan