

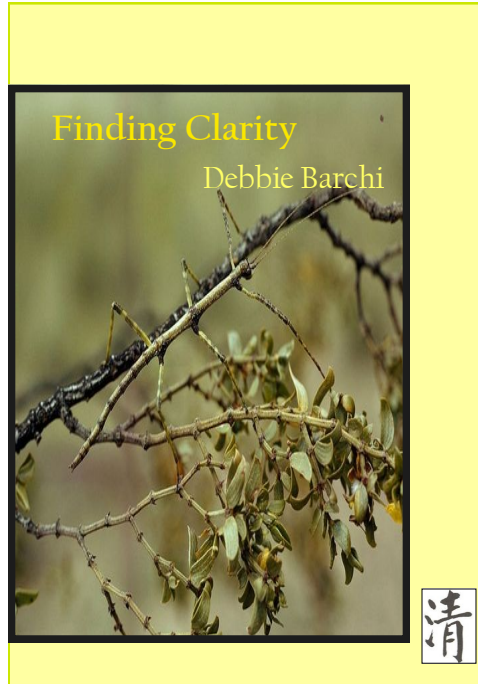
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origami poems@gmail.com

Photo: The Walking Stick
National Geographic Website

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Finding Clarity
Debbie Barchi © 2013



For Clarity, Choose Autumn

For clarity, choose Autumn,
for wisdom, Winter.
Spring renews the spirit
that feckless Summer spends.
With each, our life in tandem moves
through gentle times and rough.
Why count the days and seasons?
There never are enough.

Autobiography of a Leaf

Tender, green and new I hang,
needing only sun and rain.
To fly becomes my whole desire.
To soar--alone--a little while.
I wish so much that I might know
the bliss that comes from letting go;
until the snow and frozen rain
drive me to the ground again.
There to shelter, rot, and die;
become sweet earth, another time.

Watchers

Her black tail feathers
flicked
like a strobe.
They watched her,
eyed each other,
shifted feet.
She flew off.
They followed.
She dropped to the grass.
They watched.
Not a tail flutter in sight.
She had obviously changed her mind.

The Walking Stick

The walking stick clings
to the backyard screen
a stick with legs
stiff and brown.
It might be a twig
torn loose from a hedge
but my grateful heart knows
it is not.

CLARITY:

1. clearness or lucidity as to perception or understanding; freedom from indistinctness or ambiguity.
2. state or quality of being clear or transparent to the eye.

Tree of Sparrows

A flock of common sparrows
chatter in a tree
a thousand throats
unvaried notes
singing not for me

nor for my kind
as we pass by
oblivious and rushed
a thousand hidden sparrows
chanting vespers until dusk.