

Try to Catch the Clouds

Write today's poem about clouds.

Trying to Paint Clouds

Trying to paint clouds,
I fix my feet to the ground.

O white travelers
with your umber bellies
rushing through
that blue neighborhood!
So much speed up above,
I spin backwards down below.
So much change up above,
my brush is outraced
every swirling second.

Naomi Replansky
in *Collected Poems*

The Envoys

First South America, then Africa
floated as clouds above me.

When you don't travel much,
the continents send envoys,
diplomats to fly over.

The trees and the roses
and I all wave in the wind,
but the continents can't pause.

They have countless miles to go
and so many homebodies
to greet and thrill as they sail

the high blue seas of sky.
I stand shouting, 'Hello to you too!
and thanks for the fly-by,'

as the continental ships drift,
distort and disappear around
earth's curvature.

jch 6/24/2021

Clouds

Most people
like to watch clouds.

I too have liked watching them
since long ago

Fluffy clouds on a nice day
are pleasant,
like clouds an impressionist musician might sketch
with the leisurely tones of a flute.
More than any others though, I like
the dark blue, turbulent clouds foreboding a storm.

They look so wild and chaotic,
and yet
they are moving toward somewhere
in a firm, solid body.

When I look at them
I feel like shouting out loud.

They must have tremendous speed.
They must have tremendous sides.
I want to sing of them
at the top of my lungs

with a big bass drum
and a tuba that would howl like a bull.

Kuroda Kio

in *Like Underground Water: The Poetry of
Mid-Twentieth Century Japan*

Trans: Naoshi Koriyama and Edward Lueders

Rows and floes of angel hair
And ice cream castles in the air
And feather canyons everywhere
I've looked at clouds that way

But now they only block the sun
They rain and they snow on everyone
So many things I would have done
But clouds got in my way

I've looked at clouds from both sides now
From up and down and still somehow
It's cloud illusions I recall
I really don't know clouds at all

Joni Mitchell

at the beginning of "Both Sides Now"