

May 2018

## From What is Before

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### Recommended Citation

Anderson, Kevin B. (2018) "From What is Before," *CLAMANTIS: The MALS Journal*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 4 , Article 12.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.dartmouth.edu/clamantis/vol1/iss4/12>

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# From What is Before

## **Cover Page Footnote**

n/a

*From What Is Before*

The snow set early tonight  
In the creaking space between thaw and freeze—  
Beneath the silent sighs of falling flurries,  
The snowpack's awning groaned its gray discontent—  
Now! "Forever and ever," whispered the pebbling snow,  
"We will blanket the world in sleep."  
And, slow! The snowflakes buried life  
Under wrappings ash-white  
And mummified and lulled  
Dawn's cerulean rule—  
"Crystallize and weep,"  
Crystallize and weep in  
Mountain tides circadian.

And I waited in forest's deep keep,  
Arbor-cloistered in a priory of trees (*a priori*),  
Forgetting all knowledge and desire,  
Overshadowed by spars and cordage,  
Green spears, plumes, spires  
Of pines rising skyward and higher,  
Moon-bound, in-drew,  
So straight and true they curved  
Over warping intemporal and cresting and ceding  
To curl and crash their emerald seas  
Frothy white down;  
And dreaming,  
I waited for them forming  
To recede and gather and roll again,  
Reborn and reborn,  
Like spring,  
Like ice,  
Like oceans and fire,  
Rising.