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Geology

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Geology

When I am done walking
I will look up

the definition for geology—
word of earth—

in a dictionary without angles or sides
that maps the peaks and valleys

of somewhere I've never been. What of
these spells of breeze and weight,

the hesitance given to the climb,
the involuntary hurry of descent

will not last? Down
come the small pebbles

following in the footsteps
of early boulders, glacial till, one rock

in the crevice
of my boot. If it's the force

of friction that holds things close
to the mountain, it is

the forces of gravity and time
that send them away. Can I

account for the kind of repetition
not to be taken for infinity?

Could I forget this
exact spot where today I beheld

clear light bending through clouds,
the constant

coincidence of meeting my loneliness
in the same place as my joy?

Alice B. Fogel

ALICE B. FOGEL's latest book is *A Doubtful House* (Bauhan Publishing, 2017). Her collection *Interval: Poems Based on Bach's "Goldberg Variations"* (Schaffner Press, 2015) won the Nicholas Schaffner Award for Music in Literature and the 2016 New Hampshire Literary Award in Poetry. Her poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies. She hikes mountains whenever possible and has completed about half of the Appalachian Trail. She is a former New Hampshire poet laureate.