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## Bones and Moonlight

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## Bones and Moonlight

I found the bones of a fawn  
by a quiet pond one sunny afternoon.  
The small concave hip socket  
weathered to whiteness seemed a place  
to rest my thumb, not much bigger,  
to lift the skeleton to its feet to run away.

The skull lay by a large rock  
as if learning peace. I traced an eye socket  
with a fingertip. Oak leaves rustled  
and water rippled. I closed my eyes  
in sympathy. I felt like tracery in the air.

I took a weather-polished leg bone  
home, a tibia as long as my hand span,  
and laid it on a windowsill. Those nights  
when moonlight finds the fawn's bone,  
I feel a threnody in my own bones.

*Robert M. Randolph*

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ROBERT M. RANDOLPH has published poems in more than 40 journals in the U.S. and abroad. He has twice been a Fulbright Scholar and teaches at Waynesburg University in Pennsylvania.