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## Quechee Gorge

Francis Blessington

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## Quechee Gorge

Nebulas rise at me,  
rain washes down.

The ice thrust routed  
this downward channel.

“DANGER”: Water rises fast,  
when dam lets loose.

A funnel to Hades.  
Down is easy?

Those ghosting crags  
shall outlast me.

Their glacial trickle  
is still a torrent.

Behind me  
the trail erodes.

Ahead, crescendoing rock  
and more missteps.

Sky shrinks  
to a sword of cloud.

Stone embraces me.  
Valley of the Shadow.

Here, at the bottom,  
trout are hauled out.

Now, gentle voices  
are walking down

This time,  
I can return.

*Francis Blessington*

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FRANCIS BLESSINGTON’S latest book is *Poems from Underground* (Deerbrook Editions, 2017). He teaches English at Northeastern University.

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