

TOM WAYMAN

## MAY RISE

Each droplet that descends from sky  
to strike gravel or soil  
has its own DNA, and on impact  
a root emerges  
through the sphere's surface tension  
to burrow into  
earth  
Drop followed by  
drop: heavy rain  
Then a second root  
pushes clear of the globule  
to penetrate wet ground  
and a stem rises  
of aspen, cottonwood  
or huckleberry, hawkweed

From the new shoot  
a leaf extrudes, more  
The downpour is converting the riverbank  
meadow, roadside, mountainside  
to a pointillist green  
haze that cascades out  
from trunks, branches, twigs: a surfeit  
that swamps spruce and fir in a  
flood of dark green to yellow  
green, every tone glistening

in steady rain

Above on the forested slopes  
cloud fragments  
float up like smoke from the task  
of transmuting the May valley  
until it is as equally rich in  
water  
as leaves, leaves, leaves