

# The privilege of water is . . .

by [Capers Limehouse](#) in the [June 16, 2009](#) issue

That here in the deepest water,  
beyond even rags of light,  
nearly transparent creatures glitter and flash  
like neon signs floating  
down the Las Vegas strip;

That as recently as seven years ago  
liquid water flowed down  
an arroyo on Mars,  
shifting sands and turning small rocks, a pattern  
like a palm print on a rusting door;

That on a cold night  
water vapor makes visible the breath  
of small children, who laugh  
to see themselves breathe,

and makes visible the broken breath  
of old men forgetting their children in refugee camps,  
and the drying breath of prisoners in stone cells,  
whose mothers and sisters believe they're long dead;

That in the beginning the Spirit  
moved over the waters like a mighty wind;  
that the spirit moves through water even now, even now  
through the straw held to a sick man's lips,  
blessed from basin to scallop shell  
to the forehead of a crying child;  
That we are from conception  
almost entirely water.