

Polar bear

by [D. S. Martin](#) in the [December 30, 2020](#) issue

*reflected in the eye of an angel*

Are they not the most angelic of beasts? Bright  
white & mighty of limb though hardly suited for flight  
One thousand pounds of hypercarnivorous bear

O fragile child what do you think of the cub  
seeing for the first time their diminishing arctic icescape  
stumbling after her mother from their winter lair?

Isolation has proven insufficient the implications of wrong  
radiate to the ends of the earth where  
even inanimate ice crystals wait

She knows nothing of changing seasons or if all this drip shrink  
thaw occurs for more ominous reasons doesn't even know  
it hasn't been continuous all winter long

Franklin dreamed of the Northwest Passage in days before  
supertankers But do you dare allow it knowing now  
what such a trajectory could mean?

Does the mother bear notice there's less sea ice? Do you  
O fragile child on occasion include the creation you're  
to watch over in your morning prayer?