

Winning Poems in 2022 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

1. Fixed Forms, First Place

Emissary *Tartoum*

I release the bird into the dream
where it flies into a dissolving wall
made of thick white curtains—

where it flies into a dissolving wall
made of light that flattens as it spreads,
becoming a sky the bird can remember,

made of light that flattens as it spreads
where the bird will remember what I tell it:
“the dream is never real...”

where the bird will remember what I tell it:
“the solution of light is always dark...”
There is a dissolving sea of night to cross.”

The solution of light is always dark.
The dissolving image becomes the reality.
The bird returns on its own.

The dream is never real;
there is a dissolving sea of night to cross,
becoming a sky the bird can remember
made of thick white curtains.
The bird returns on its own.

Joyce Odam
Sacramento, CA

TARTOUM (form derived from the Pantoum)
Unlimited number of tercets, except for last stanza. The middle line
of one stanza becomes first line of next. Concluding stanza uses the
third lines of all previous stanzas, in any order.
(Rhyme/meter at poet’s discretion.)