

Good News

CAITLIN JOHNSON CASTELAZ

“and all the atoms cry aloud” – Bahá'u'lláh

And the scientists told the newspapers
that the atoms had learned to speak
but the journalists had never heard
of such a thing
so they could not trust their ears
or their scribbled notes.

And so when the papers were published
the people read
that the atoms had learned to split,
and that the scientists had taught them,
which was not completely untrue
but what was truer
was that the atoms
had learned to speak
and had, in fact, been speaking for some time.

When the scientists first heard the atoms' voices,
small and grainy like sand,
they were alarmed
that they spoke in unison
using words the scientists did not know,
which was surprising
because
they were scientists
and had learned many words
that even their mothers
could not pronounce.

And as the atoms spoke of rising suns
and blazing fires
the scientists began to catalogue
the things they did not know:
That nameless burning heat
the atoms called a father
and whatever mother
had taught the atoms to rise,
to speak, to circle round like a choir
and pray so quiet and so nice.