

The Most Beautiful Word
Third Place Poetry 2004

I know the most beautiful word in the English language.
You may not know it unless you too have waited to hear it
Waited for hours, or days, or God forbid, weeks.

I know it because when I heard it
The world began to spin again, slowly, and on its axis.
There was once again a tomorrow I could imagine

As my deepest fears fell away.
It revived my ability to dream
And pulled me back from a premature glimpse of the abyss.

If you hear it when everything you have ever hoped
About the rest of your life hangs on it
You will know it too, with the same certainty as I.

You will know it as it caresses your ear and its full meaning
Registers in the back of your throat
While the sweetness of it fills your being.

I don't know if the translation of this word is equally
Beautiful in any other language on this earth,
But I'll bet it is.

I know the most beautiful word in the English language.
The most beautiful word is
Benign.

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