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### Poem by Lucille Lang Day



## Oasis

At an oasis deep

in my left temporal lobe,  
I encounter my soul  
just before it leaves the party  
at 33,000 feet, where  
the dead do as they please,  
and time is a circular target.

Where does meaning  
lurk in a universe  
where mountains are mangy  
from fires and logging,  
the president brags about  
forcing himself on women,  
and marksmen take aim?

In the heart of a hummingbird  
beating more than one  
thousand times each minute  
during a rapid dive  
in a high-speed chase,  
while outside a bright theater  
night ripens like an avocado,  
and a gunman decides  
not to shoot after all  
because consciousness  
is a moth that finally got in.

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### Art Information

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Lucille Lang Day has published ten poetry collections and chapbooks, including *Becoming an Ancestor* and *Dreaming of Sunflowers: Museum Poems* (2014 Blue Light Poetry Prize). She is co-editor of *Red Indian Road West: Native American Poetry from California* and the author of two children's books, *Chain Letter* and *The Rainbow Zoo*, as well as a memoir, *Married at Fourteen* (2013 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award). Her poems, essays, and short stories have received nine Pushcart Prize nominations and appear widely in magazines and anthologies. The founder and publisher of Scarlet Tanager Books, she lives in Oakland, California.

For more information, visit [Lucille Lang Day's website](#) [5] or follow her on Twitter [@LucilleLDay](#). [6]

## Oasis

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