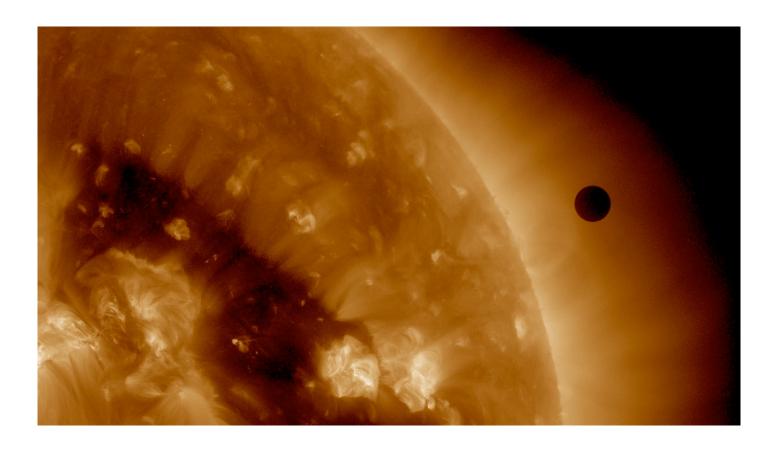
# The Right of the Sun to Die [1]

May 4, 2020 Featured Poetry [2] Nature [3] Transitions [4]

# Poem by R. J. Keeler



# The Right of the Sun to Die

The right of the pear tree to bear pear fruit

And the right of the apple tree to bear apple fruit

And the right of the Italian plum tree to bear plums

The right of the crows to eat the pears and apples and delicious plums

And then drop the partially eaten fruit on the earth below

And the right of ants and roly-poly bugs—woodlice—to clean the dropped pear or apple

or plum seeds of any remaining fruit

And of wild ground bees to clean the dropped seeds of any remaining fruit

Then the right of the true hawk or kestrel or even the eagle to raid the crows' nests and lance and eat the near-featherless squabs, even the right to kill the parent-crows

Then drop the partially eaten crow corpses on the ground below or on the water of shallow, brackish bays

Then the right of harbor crabs or earthworms to strip the squabs' bones of flesh

 $\label{thm:complex} $$ (function(i,s,o,g,r,a,m){i['GoogleAnalyticsObject']=r;i[r]=i[r]|[function(){ (i[r].q=i[r].q||[]).push(arguments)},i[r].l=1*new Date();a=s.createElement(o), $$ m=s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0];a.async=1;a.src=g;m.parentNode.insertBefore(a,m) })(window,document,'script','https://www.googlege 1 of 3 analytics.com/analytics.js','ga'); $$ ga('create', 'UA-18260536-1', 'auto'); $$ ga('send', 'pageview');$ 

### The Right of the Sun to Die

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Then the right of earthworms, after stripping the squabs' bones, to methodically go back and cultivate the soil beneath the apple, pear, and plum trees

And the right of fly larva to reprise the picking of twice-cleaned bones to make them evenly clean

And the right of the sun to die

After it exercises its right to swell to a red giant and incinerate the younger earth And incinerate all the inner planets

And incinerate all known life: fruit trees, hawks, earthworms, roly-poly bugs, crabs, bees Then the right of remnant dusts after the destruction of the sun and solar system

And eventually the right of all suns in the galaxy to die, become dust, or bear fruit

And the right of the entire Milky Way to either die or bear fruit

And the right of trillions of galaxies to swell up and either bear fruit or die

And the right of bugs and other sentients to predict these swellings and deaths and bearings of fruit and suns and of final light

And not to have any right to return things to square zero or to kick over the game board Or to despise, however incidentally, the movie as it plays, start to end, frame by frame Only the right to change the reels as they are shown and consumed, one after another Or if astronomically lucky, the right to splice the film as it breaks and the movie stops and the house lights come back on momentarily

#### **Art Information**

• "View of 2012 Venus Transit [5]" © NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; Creative Commons license.



R. J. Keeler was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and grew up in the jungles of Colombia. He holds a BA in Mathematics from North Carolina State University, an MS in Computer Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MBA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Certificate in Poetry from the University of Washington. He is a recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal, Honorable Discharge, and his forthcoming poetry collection is titled *Detonation*.

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