

and cultural studies. She also directs the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program and serves on the Board of Directors for the Centre for the Study of Black Cultures in Canada. As part of a mandate to grow Black Canadian Studies at York University, she was responsible for organizing on March 19-20, 2004, a graduate students' conference titled: *Examinations of Black Canada in a Changing National Context*.

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GABRIELE D.R. GUENTHER

In a manner fantastic

On forest nights like these, in Karuizawa,
our father'd take us deep into the heart
of lightning. Bolts drove
black handwriting into the grass, pines
exploded, birds steamed
like fresh dung

far from mother's scream
statuesque above the veranda
amid the laughter
of fire on the leaves, and smoke ringing the stone
heads of the journey gods
that lined the eve of our girlhoods – bright
offerings of tangerines and rice
punctuating the road
the would lead to all things before us
as yet perfect and slate-naked and clinging like the nubile
scent of rain to the scar of darkness
silvering overhead

while we, in socks and little hats, scarves
gleaming like swords on our chests, lengthened
like an idea that never quite returns
undamaged after thunder's
spoken and, in a manner
fantastic, ear and eye are chipped wide open.

Gabriele D. R. Guenther's poems have appeared in numerous U.S., Canadian and British journals and anthologies such as the Chicago Review, Praire Schooner, Plainsongs, Malahat Review, Stand Magazine and many more. She is a translator specializing in the subtitling of French, German, Dutch and Japanese films, as well as a painter. She currently divides her time between Amsterdam and Vancouver where she works on a cross-over project.