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# Bearing to Know

The State of our World

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## It's Not

Thinner than the skin of an apple  
thinner even than the dust on the shelf

Between the enormity  
of endless space  
and the crust of the earth  
is a tiny, thin  
breathtakingly sheer layer

Our atmosphere is where  
all that we love and cherish exists

And even more delicate  
is the flimsy canvas of soil and rock and sea  
The place where we love and sleep, eat and play  
and believe that all things are possible

Acting as if  
these bountiful oceans are boundless  
They aren't

Acting as if  
the very soil that feeds us  
stays magically stable and fertile  
It doesn't

Acting as if  
this layer of precious air  
is impervious, indestructible  
that it is infinitely supportive of us

It's not

Jane O'Shea

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