

April 11

SELECTED BY DAVID W. FREY

Thus says Yahweh:

Stand at the crossroads, and look

And ask for the ancient paths,

Where the good way lies; and walk in it,

And find rest for your souls

Jeremiah 6:16

Unholy Sonnet #42

Instead, you can walk backwards into life -

Undo your steps and gain ground as you yield,

As long as ground remains beneath your feet.

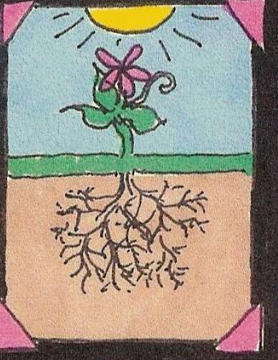
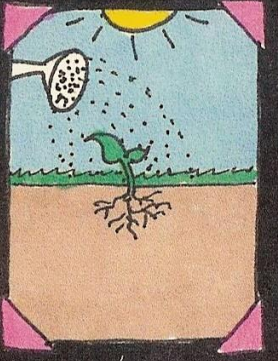
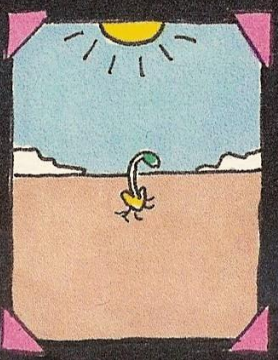
It's like one way of wading into surf,

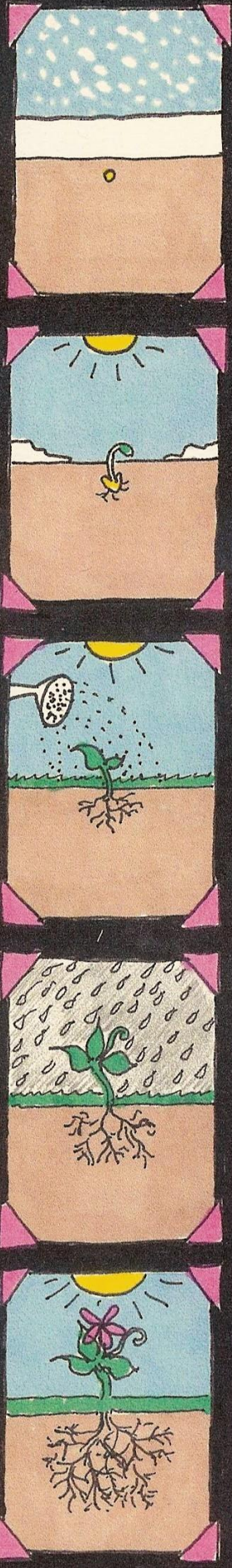
Putting the swell behind you as it breaks.

The other is to take life diving under

With eyes shut tight until it washes over.

Either way, if you don't want to face





The world mounting towards you, wave on wave,
Or setting up its obstacles perversely,
You can make a virtue of reversal
Or submission. Then perhaps you'll have
That certain feeling of being vaguely shepherded
Or that someone somewhere knows where you
are headed.

Mark Jarman, Unholy Sonnets (Ashland, Oregon: Story Line Press, 2000), 72.

You, O eternal Trinity, are a deep sea, into
which the more I enter, the more I find, and the
more I find the more I seek. The soul cannot be
satiated in your abyss, for she continually
hungers after you, desiring to see you with the
light of your light... O abyss, O eternal Godhead,
O sea profound, what more could you give me
than yourself?

Catherine of Siena (Dominican Nun, 1347-80)