

ABOUT US

Carbon-12

conceived at the back of time
in the twilight of mystery
deep within the womb of ancestral gods
blue giants, primordial stars

in itself a language

not the sort to be savoured
and spun on the tongue,

rather, a constellation of cycles
uttering a rhythm, faint but unmistakable,
pure, primal, quivering
across its tribe of industrious atoms,

a language breathed by soil,
by each and every drop of rain that falls,
echoed by the spaces that fill the sky,
whispered by rocks asleep deep below,
a language laughed and cried and lived by
you,
you terrestrial thing that lives

a vessel of meaning, a clause, adrift in cosmic syntax,
unaware of itself and of the open poem it is a part

Filippo Rossi, Top Ten Winner in the About Us poetry competition