

Seeking contributors to

Comfort Zone

a poetry collection celebrating diversity and solidarity in Newton



I'm Kimberly Gladman Jackson, the author of two poetry collections, *Tesseract* and *Materfamilias*, and a monthly poetry column at *Kind Over Matter*.

Last year, I received a grant from the Harmony Foundation, which promotes cross-cultural understanding in Newton.

I planned to work with native speakers of foreign languages to create new translations of classic poems from their linguistic traditions, in order to expand all of our "comfort zones."

But after a few poems (including the one below) were complete, COVID hit, making further collaborations hard.

So to round out the collection, I've decided to solicit contributions from any poet who lives, works, or studies in Newton, on themes related to my original idea: diversity, community, and especially—given the year we've had—comfort, solidarity, and survival in the face of challenges.

I'll publish results next year through my imprint, Tandeta Books.

Send submissions to kgladman@gmail.com by December 1, 2020.

Leaving Baidi in the Morning

Li Bai (710-762),

White mist flees the Yangtze's speed
Rows of layered hills flash by
Monkeys screech joy to the sky
As my boat flies me homeward, free!

trans. Kimberly G. Jackson & Jianling Wang

Original: 早发白帝城

朝辭白帝彩雲間
千里江陵一日還
兩岸猿聲啼不住
輕舟已過萬重山

Translator's note:

This poem celebrates a political dissident's release from prison in the imperial city of Baidi, and his trip home through the Yangtze River's now-flooded Three Gorges, where wild apes were then common. While it has been translated often, the versions I found did not convey what I felt when Jianling read it aloud to me: an extreme concision, powerful rhythm, and a sense of joyous liberation. I tried to capture these elements in my new English version.