

2020 Wind & Water Writing Contest
First Prize Winner
POETRY

morning swims
by Shauna Haugen

touch of sea
silken as tencel across my skin
and milky blue-green chalcedony
the ocean's enveloping colour field
lapping, a sound surround—
These are our morning swims

rising and falling with currents
lifted, lowered, swayed
by rolling swells, drifted
carried by tidal coursings
between sandy shore and horizon
sky stretching wide and infinitely high—
These our morning swims

where undulations heal
and moving intones meditations
entwined with breath the flow
of inhale and exhale, stride
of limbs lengthening, flexing
floating, muscle and bone
suspended in water suspended
between birth and death
in this aquatic invitation to surrender—
on our morning swims

visitations of angelfish recall
primordial beginnings, oceanic origins
amid coral reefs and fluid creatures, darkness
so deep no light reaches
yet silver glazings of sun and moon
lay a mirror for stars, the arc of their shooting
Mystery reflected and incarnate —
These are our swims
traveling to some unknown shore.