

FAULT LINES

poem by Margaret Malochleb



To negotiate the terrain
of devotion's darker
questions, we set out
in search of knowledge
buried inside the mountain.
Together we climbed
the treacherous path
littered with thistle,
bindweed, cheatgrass.
Held out our hands
to pull each other up
to the next outcropping.
And as we tended
our hunger, our thirst,
our need for rest,
the mountain watched,
held its breath
and waited for us
to look down and see
that the unwritten history
inside every living thing
is a borderless boundary
that can never be breached.

Image: "Ballet Above the Bay" by René Bohnen. "Fault Lines" was written by Margaret Malochleb for *Rattle's* Ekphrastic Challenge, October 2022, and selected as the Artist's Choice.