

Forest Shark

~Jayden Xiao

I saw the forest shark, my spirit
shivered while watching

mighty cyan body swim
through the air and devour deer
In bone-breaking bites

Bloody shark teeth
stabbed into misty moss,
a narrow trail of crimson

He slipped away
sliding through mammoth spruce
Leaving a tranquil wake
of fear

I paced home, timorous.

He stalked me in silence
Shark tail splashing silent air and leaves

I ran sweat swimming
down my face I dove
Into a bear den,
screened myself with a branch

Secretly he scanned
for forest floor cracks,
gave up and drifted away

I observed him swimming above
through the smell of musk and earth
through trunks and bird chirp warnings

I followed as it stalked away
not knowing what horror I would see

Its silky, slim body led me to a creek
a swarm of sharks cycloning
they floated above like air bubbles

The creek hot springed, boiled gurgle pop
They sank into the bubbling void

descending deep down
into earth's crust

curiosity & fate— propelled me into the water
pulled me closer to observe
pushed me into the water

finally, I heard them speak
into the back of my mind:

You are one of us
You must join
We need you

I could not resist
I listened
I obeyed.
The water felt
frigid with baleful gloom.

