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## When it Rains, Water Pools Above the Cracks in the Sidewalk

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WHEN IT RAINS,

WATER POOLS ABOVE  
THE CRACKS IN THE  
SIDEWALK

**KYLE  
FLANNERY**

Ask the fish to speak  
and he will speak.

When he swims  
and surfaces to snack on a resting fly,  
ask the fish to speak.

When he is hooked  
and ripped from the mountain stream,  
ask the fish to speak.

When he is gutted  
and stripped of his loins and scales,  
ask the fish to speak.

When he is baked  
and served beside two slices of lemon,  
ask the fish to speak.

When he is digested  
and composted into the ground,  
ask the fish to speak.

When others ask,  
do not tell anyone his story—  
for if you ask the fish to speak,  
he will speak.