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Masculinity Ode

I used to think my body craved
annihilation. An inevitability,
like the slow asphyxiation
of the earth. Yoked to this body
by beauty, its shallow promises
I was desperate to believe,
too fearful to renounce my allegiance
even with its hand closing
around my throat. When I chose
myself, I chose surrender. God
is the river that remakes me
in its image. I didn't know what
was waiting on the other side.
I swam through it anyway.

Ally Ang

Ally Ang is a gaysian poet & editor based in Seattle. They are an NEA fellow and a MacDowell fellow, and their debut poetry collection, *Let the Moon Wobble*, is forthcoming from Alice James Books in November 2025. Along with Cody Stetzel, they co-host Other People's Poems, a monthly poetry open mic and reading series in Seattle. Find them at allysonang.com or @TheOceanIsGay.