

Unless

Alyssa Quan

Unless someone decides they care
enough to spare a bit of spare
change for the better,
get their toes a bit wetter,
see if they can break the tension
that was so ice cold it froze
the water that was trying to flow
through your voice that, solo,
couldn't get through the thick
tension in the air and quick-
ly evaporated, dissipated
like the water that once quenched desert oases
like the colorful skies that only the day sees
like the toxins that may seize
even more of our children right before our unseeing eyes

Unless

we choose to see past the veil
of lies that says there's no avail
in fighting for what already belongs to us,
but that should be exactly why we prevail.
Because we already have the holy grail,
it just needs to be restored
to its original purpose
that was lost when we destroyed
the gift that was meant to serve us.

and unless the foundation
of our beliefs includes creation-
care doesn't matter
because those who matter
don't dare.