

# The Transformation of Water

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1 Gunton

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In the beginning was the Word

Across a great body of water  
a Japanese scientist  
fills beakers with  
molecularly identical  
water samples  
then affixes labels to each:  
joy, rage, peace, despair.  
When next he analyzes  
the beakers' contents,  
each contains a radically  
altered organization  
of molecules—  
water transformed  
by words.

Outside the Cancer Center  
I pause, watching translucent  
beads and rivulets of water  
cascading down  
a decorative stone wall,  
seeking words  
powerful enough  
magical enough  
to change the  
molecular structure  
of sarcoma  
or at least transform  
the fear of death.