

## self-portrait as god

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sorry i'm sorry i'm  
                                    sorry i didn't mean  
                                    for all this  
a child looks at another child and  
sees an animal full-formed and  
                                    snarling i look  
                                    at a woman and see myself  
but larger, more complex, more  
  afraid  
there are no walls in heaven but i  
am building them                            because i know how  
  to learn  
i'm trying to name the creature  
in my chest  
  taxonomically  
a beast knows order, knows kingdom,  
knows latin for                            water for  
  heartache for                            salt  
i've lost more things than i know how  
to replace                            the word for this  
  is excision  
  also evolution  
  also affliction  
i blessed my hands  
and wondered why  
  they disappeared

