Expectations & other natural disasters
Tornado

Tornadoes are born from storms.

Sudden.

Unpredictable.

Cloud boundaries are broken,
and intensely spinning air funnels down
spiraling out of control.

Touching down means that what was once only in the sky,
is now a problem for the earth too.

The weather has come home.
Flood

Too much water,
beyond what can be held.

Water where it shouldn’t be,
in places we’ve created to keep it out.
The result is things get carried away,
submerged,
drowned.

We wait for it to recede –
knowing that what we see when the water is gone,
may be worse than the water itself.
Earthquake

Two blocks of earth suddenly slip past one another.
It is a shift, a slide, a subduction.
The result –
Parts that were once together
breaking,
irrevocably,
apt.
We feel it because we have things that can break.
We have waterlines to burst, gas lines to leak, and pictures to fall off walls.

If we didn’t -
if we were alone -
we might just ride it out -
straddle the cracks -
and keep going.

Instead,
we are crushed by the destruction
of what we’ve chosen to surround ourselves with.
Hurricane

A hurricane is when wind reaches a maximum speed.
Way beyond a breeze or a gust,
it is now a full-on force.
There is a space of low pressure in the center,
if you can make it there.

There is a season for this.
We know it is coming.
We try to prepare and withstand by boarding up and battening down.
Some of us leave,
and some of us try to ride it out.
Some of us return to rebuild,
and some of us never come back.

Some of us come back after a long time away,
and
instead of destruction,
find something beautiful,
that could only be created,
after everything that was there before
was swept clean.
Avalanche

The snow and ice layered upon soil and rock. Everything seemed solid. Unbreakable even. But everything has its vulnerabilities to overwhelm.
Weight...
Pressure...
the dig from a sharp pick...
it’s hard to know what sets it off.
Maybe it would have come down anyway,
but the result is the same.

Something gave way,
we lost purchase,
and everything came down.

Taking us with it.
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