

Limestone

Before the animals.

Before the green stutter of trees,

fragrant hum of flowers,

there was wind. Before wind,

there were the mountains, shedding their skins

for 500 million years

until they were islands.

Before the mountains was the sea

shallow with sediment – sloughed off

minerals and the skeletons of coral and mollusk,

compressing into rock. Limestone.

The building blocks of this city.

Each grey wall of Kingston

a congress of dead sea creatures

from the ancient slip and spill. Each stone

older than human life. Our lives, that blow through

brief as weather, on the surface of these streets,

these rock shelves,

this old mountain.

This furrowing, living sea.

(Jan. 1, 2016)