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[Astrophilia: When We Cosmologize Seedlings in Root] // Instructions for Reconstructing a Phoenix Skeleton

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[Astrophilia: When We Cosmologize as Seedlings in Root,]

refract through me like photons speckled against dark

matter gardens, expand while atoms' lean electron-
muscles pulse into what we see:

floaters phosphened over lenses like telescoped dust,
tracking flight in spaces between stars—

through pollen-nebulae where we orbited parallel—
dandelion florets squalling against gravity.

What preceded the Big Bang?—Maybe we're epilogues, subatomic

reactions daisychained in fractals, splitting
like cells—infinity: unit for layers & layers of dermis

greenhoused into planetary bodies. Red
giants flare quickest so I drink rust-hot

watering cans & you miracle-gro, spiral-arm me easy
until we collide:—galaxies roped end to end

come into bloom: I supernova against your stringbean cilia, black
holes vacuum nerve endings in sunspots where we don't.

CHRISSY MONTELLI

Instructions for Reconstructing a Phoenix Skeleton

[1] Kindle the body, monkeywrench open ribs & [2]
invite beach-children to bucket together her gravel-

joints. Collect shells—[3]—stitch into bone [4] with shrapnel
sanded off at the vein. Knot [5] with matches—wait [6]

for the moment embers tremble through ventricle
into atrium: *a-gain, a-gain*—[7]—& when she becomes

aware of the beating, her bivalves will mollusk
the cage around it. [8] Let heart float exposed:

[9] tissue shoots back through her marrow
frame—once-beak coiling slow, into conch.