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## **What is Emotion? The Passion After**

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*TWO POEMS* by Tita Lacambra Ayala

*What Is Emotion?*

It restricts  
 or expands the capacity  
 to flowering, or to illusion:  
 vertebrally or wide  
 depending on the guide:

If eagle—  
 swooping fiercely, eyed  
 and eyeing for involvement  
 deep by, upon each peak  
 each mountainside, each bed  
 of river dammed to full  
     or dry to bone  
 carrion by the sun.

Tektite—  
 a calculated cold impassive arc  
 of light bearing no grudge  
     nor brunt  
 nor wily disinterestedness:  
 a scalpel, cutting edge of bright  
 probes and then proves the element  
     of darkness  
 with such precision it involves  
     no flight  
 but a possession of lunar places.  
 What is emotion?

Both these  
 the knit capacity to endure and give  
 what there is to endure  
 what there is to give.

*The Passion After*

He with dark hands  
touched reddened drapery  
away from body lips  
stepped down the cross  
to the damp clod  
leaving purple toeflowers  
legended there  
like archeologic beginnings.  
Only this was the end  
of an ached breast.  
With every step the wood-  
ness of his back  
lightened towards his father  
drywhite lips drank  
from proffered cup.