

**the world begins with a suitcase**

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the world begins with a suitcase  
empty to fill, i learn how it is to possess  
and pack possessions away to haul  
behind me on trips to elsewhere

though it is mine, the suitcase is shared  
my first was the half compartment of my mother's  
filled with clothes I would outgrow  
books I would read once then give away

when I get my own suitcase  
half will always be for family  
to bring pasalubong when I return from elsewhere  
this is how I learn to give

by taking pieces of where I was  
to where I am now  
a show and tell of who I was  
and how I become.

the other half of my suitcase is where I learn to build life  
with every worldly possession I have and give  
again and again